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A Night at Walton's Mill.

BY ALICE TURNER.

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THE following adventure will give one an idea of the sufferings risked, and often actually endured, by the early settlers of Ohio. Sixty years ago the city of Cleveland, whose population is now over a quarter of a million, was a little settlement on the very border of civilization. The settlers guarded their cattle from the wild beasts that prowled through the almost unbroken forest; and men daring enough to make their home on the border of the great western reserve were men of courage and endurance.

One April day in the spring of 1834, George Lucas, who had established himself and family near the little settlement called Parma, on the west side of the Cuyahoga River, was preparing for a journey to Newburgh, now one of the suburbs of Cleveland.

His pair of steady going horses were harnessed into the light wagon, and he was waiting for his wife who was going with him on a visit to her family, while Mr. Lucas intended bringing home a load of seed potatoes.

"Hurry up, Martha," he called, "I've waited long enough, and if you intend crossing the river with me to-day you want to be on hand."

In response to this summons Mrs. Lucas hurried out with her little son in her arms. The baby was now over a year old and this

was to be his first visit to his grandmother.

"It seems like quite an undertaking for us to go to Newburgh," said Mrs. Lucas, "I hope the river is low. I remember the last time we crossed it seemed as if it wasn't more than a brook in some places."

"It's just the time for us to go," replied Mr. Lucas, with a look at the sky, "the river is always safe enough to ford when we've had such a dry spell. I did think we might have a

little rain to-day, but I guess it was only wind clouds," he concluded.

The road to the river was through a rough but picturesque country. Occasional clearings gave them glimpses of their neighbors' farms, and in the distance the hills rose blue against the sky.

"I don't know as it was a very good idea for you and baby to come to-day, after all," said Mr. Lucas as they neared the fording place, "it will be mighty near dark when we get home, and if we should have rain this river won't be easy to ford."

Mrs. Lucas laughed merrily. "Why, you just said you guessed the rain to-day would be all-wind; and even if it should rain, Baby and I won't mind a little wetting, would we baby?" A remark to which the baby replied by a series of ejaculations, accompanied by appropriate gestures, so that both father and mother forgot the weather in admiring contemplation of their infant's cleverness.

"I hope you got some one to look after the cattle, George, you know two of Mr. Wildes' best cows were killed by the bears last week," said Mrs. Lucas as they came near the river.

"Yes, I looked after everything," responded Mr. Lucas, "the bears won't find any lunch ready for them to-day, unless they catch up with us."

The river was low, and they crossed without difficulty and in a short time arrived safely at their destination.

After the horses had been taken care of, and while Mr. Lucas was making arrangements for the load of seed potatoes, the family noticed the dark clouds coming up in the southwest. Mrs. Lucas was greatly alarmed. She had lived near the Cuyahoga long enough to know that a few hours would change it from a peaceful, quiet river into a rushing, relentless stream that made fording dangerous, if not impossible.

But after an hour or two of threatening clouds, the sky apparently cleared, and they prepared to start for home.

The dusk came on rapidly. When they reached the river there was a sound of distant thunder, and a narrow shred of lightning ran across the sky. It was evident that there had been a cloud burst among the hills, for the river was swollen and muddy. Its usually clear waters were changed to a dull yellow.

"I've a great mind not to venture, after all," said Mr. Lucas, peering anxiously across the water, "what do you think about it, Martha?"

"Well, you know the ford so well, and the river can't be much deeper than it was this morning," responded Mrs. Lucas, whose anxiety to get home for the moment overcame her fears.

"I suppose it's safe enough, but the river looks bad," said Mr. Lucas, starting his horses into the stream.

The river did look bad. The gathering darkness of the night, the rush and roar of the water, and the floating logs and bits of refuse that came hurling down stream, might well have deterred them from making the attempt to cross.

But George Lucas was familiar with danger, his team was a safe and steady one, and he had little fear but he could cross in safety. Mrs. Lucas did not realize the danger until they were well into the stream, and the distant thunder came nearer, and through the deepening

shadows came a vivid flash of lightning.

For some little distance all went well, and they were beginning to hope that the worst was over, when the horses suddenly plunged violently forward and then stopped.

At the same moment they felt their carriage sinking.

Mr. Lucas tried to urge the horses on. The noble beasts responded bravely, but the wagon could not be moved.

They had struck a quicksand, and the wheels had sunk to the hubs. The heavy load held the wagon fast and prevented its being overturned.

In a moment Mr. Lucas realized the peril of their position. Though the wagon was firmly fixed it was possible that the strong current and heavy wind might sweep it over. The horses apparently had a firm foothold and there was but little to fear from them.

The rain was now falling heavily, and the lightning came in swift flashes showing that the river was rising.

"What are we going to do, George?"

At the sound of his wife's voice Mr. Lucas' resolve was made.

"I must try and get help or we shall be drowned," he answered. "You mustn't be afraid, Martha, I'm going to fix these robes and my coat so as to keep the rain off you and the boy as well as I can; then I'm going to unhitch old Jim and ride ashore for help. You'll be safe here until I get back to you."

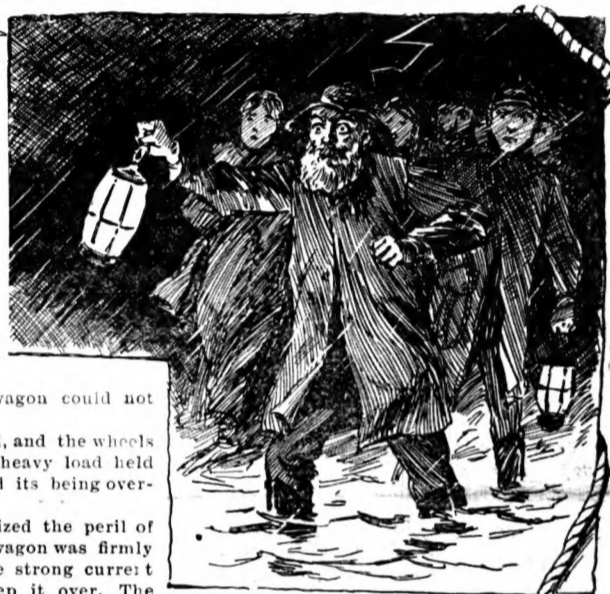
"Couldn't baby and I go with you, George?"

"No," he answered slowly, "you couldn't keep on a horse's back in this storm, and I may have to swim for it."

He stepped out on the pole of the wagon, and in a moment had Jim unhitched and was on his back.

"I'm ready to start, Martha. I'll call to you from the shore, and be back for you before you know it," he said, and was swallowed up by the darkness.

The horse that was still hitched to the wagon sent a frightened neigh after his companion, but stood still.



horse's back and lost in the swirling current.

But at last she heard his voice. "All right, Martha, keep up your courage." And she called bravely back, "all right."

On reaching shore Mr. Lucas hurried to the nearest house. It was that of Mr. Walton, the owner of a sawmill near at hand. In response to his calls and heavy knocks Mr. Walton opened the door, and Mr. Lucas' story was told in less time than it takes to write it.

Rushing into the house Mr. Walton seized the horn which hung on the kitchen wall, and in a moment its repeated blast sounded out above the noise of the storm and roused the mill hands to the fact that danger was near and assistance needed.

In a short time lights were seen flickering among the half dozen log houses, and the answering note of a horn showed that help was at hand.

The men hurried towards the shore carrying with them lines and ropes. Several women accompanied the party, and as Mrs. Walton wrapped her heavy shawl about her and started into the night the big St. Bernard dog, Major, her constant companion, followed her.

The storm had increased in violence and it was with a trembling heart that George Lucas returned to the shore and looked out into the blackness of the night.

The quick and almost continuous flashes of lightning showed the wagon still a fixture, and the motionless figure of Mrs. Lucas clasping the child in her arms. In response to the encouraging calls from the people gathered upon the shore, Mrs. Lucas' voice

(CONCLUDED ON PAGE 3.)



THE GHOST OF WUN LUNG.

By HAROLD KINSABBY.

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CHAPTER II. (Conclusion.)

SYNOPSIS OF CHAPTER I.—Just before midnight, on the 9th of December, 1881, the author saw a ghost on Nob Hill in the city of San Francisco. Prior to this he did not believe in such things; and not until he had used the Australian "spook-test," and the frightful spectacle, "a human skeleton,—skull, uplifted arm, and flowing shroud,—all ghastly white, too real to be mistaken," had passed his window a second time, was he fully convinced. The following day he reported the fact to his friend Nelson, who, after painful chaffing, agrees to lay in wait for the ghost the following night. After several hours of anxious watching they are suddenly startled by the appearance of the frightful figure.

THE horrified tone and awful shudder with which the exclamation "A ghost, by dash!" was uttered, left no doubt of the speaker's condition of mind and body. But for a trembling that the strong arm failed to conceal, the man might have been mistaken for a statue symbolizing anxiety, terror, doubt, and conviction, all mingled in one.

Left with sufficient courage and presence of mind to realize that my time had come for "paying back," I said in the most natural tone I could affect, but which I fear failed, nevertheless, to conceal the ghoul-like glee I felt:—



"Nelson, size the gentleman up carefully, and tell me how he compares with wildcats."

No reply.

I waited for the object to disappear then, turning on the light and addressing the still motionless figure at the window, I began again:

"Oh, Nelson!"

"Certainly," turning abruptly, as though aroused from a deep reverie. "What is it?"

"Won't you do me the favor to step before this mirror, try on the hat you dropped when you got up so suddenly a moment ago, and see if it still fits you?"

Again no answer.

Presently, however, after pacing the floor two or three times, he excitedly exclaimed: "That bows me out! I can't account for it."

"I can," I said calmly.

"How?" placing himself before me.

"Will you promise me upon your word of honor to keep it secret?"

"Yes."

"Why, it's nothing in the world but the effect of the 'chemical influence of the Califor'—but here he had already resumed his position at the window.

He stood a moment in silence, then, turning to me, exclaimed with great emphasis: "That was a ghost as sure as I live! And—I should like to see more of him."

"He'll very likely be back in ten or fifteen minutes, same as last night."

"What do you say to going down and 'laying for him?' Get your 'gun' quick!"

"I'll go with you upon one condition," I insisted.

"What's that?"

"That you'll tell me 'when to shoot.'"

Neither spoke again until we had reached the sidewalk; but there, just as we had started to go down hill, I made a movement as if I wished to return to the house.

"What's the matter now?"

"I forgot something."

"What?"

"That writ of ejectment."

"Look here," squaring himself before me. "You saw a ghost, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, I saw that ghost too."

"And?"

"Let's tackle that ghost, and not 'vituperate' each other."

We did.

We shook hands, then walked three blocks farther down, where, hidden from view by the deep shadows of a receding doorway, we proceeded to "lay for" that ghost.

Before proceeding with my narrative, I may add, without violating any honorable obligation to either dead or living, that the feeling called suspense unfolds itself in all its true robustness to that man only who "lays for a ghost."

As the sole guardian of his own safety, a man may have sought honest foe or ambushed enemy amid hostile hordes; as the lone guardsman of his pioneer possessions, protected his solitary camp-fire; or, moved by the magnetic spirit of adventure, he may have spent weary nights amid the perils of the jungles; yet with the combined emotions of uncertainty these experiences have aroused within him, he is still a stranger to one sensation, and that sensation comes to the man who in good faith, and on a dark night, proceeds to capture a real ghost.

Though all was dark and peaceful about us, I hadn't stood there two minutes before I became thoroughly convinced of this fact.

The brief but oppressive spell of silence, during which each had repeatedly made sure of a "correct

grip" of his revolver, was suddenly relieved by solemnly-whispered injunctions of my companion.

"Now, if he comes down this way, we'll 'lay him out cold,' but we'll have to be mighty careful about it."

"Careful about what?" I asked anxiously.

"That the law can't hold us."

"Great guns! Nelson, I never thought of that. You don't mean to say there is a law against shooting ghosts?"

"Not exactly; but neither judge nor jury knows what a ghost is like, because there's been none killed; so we'll have to keep on the safe side."

"How'll we do it? Talk fast, old man."

"You know, of course, that according to law the killing of a human being constitutes murder, and a jury might say a ghost was human, but"—

"Then how'll we do it? Speak, man!"

"But, I started to say, you may kill in self-defense."

"Suppose he doesn't tackle us?"

"Well, listen to me carefully; I haven't studied law for fun. In the first place, we'll get in his way accidentally,—mind you, accidentally,—then as he swoops down upon us, we make superhuman efforts to get out of his reach, but"—

"That's easy enough," I said.

"Listen, will you, while I talk. But we find that the supernatural monstrosity has paralyzed us in our feet, so we can't move. Feeling our lives imperilled, I'll cry out: 'Stop, thief, or we'll shoot!' (I'll not say it loud, because I want a square pop at the old gent.) And if he moves another inch, both of us, terrified by intense personal peril, desperate at finding ourselves deprived of all other protection of the law, crazed by the dastardly attack of the midnight assassin, insane, by Jove! from fear of being innocently slain in cold blood, and no longer responsible for our acts, we defend our lives, give ourselves up, and immediately go free, in accordance with the statute in such case made and provided."

"Are you sure we'll be safe in doing that?"

"Dead certain. The law of California permits neither man, ghost, nor devil to terrorize, mutilate, or kill law-abiding people. In other words, recognizing the cardinal principle that self-preservation is the first law of nature, it throws about its citizens, by constitutional enactment, the safeguard of 'self-defense.'"

Before these words of reassurance had passed his lips, the car had already left the terminus at the foot of the hill.

"Now, after that's gone, and the coast is clear and



quiet again, look out, Nelson," I said.

"I will. Don't you forget to be quick on the trigger."

That instant a sharp tapping on a window, apparently a block above us, met our ears, and at the same time we saw the downward car mounting the hillside. As it approached, the noise increased to a loud rattle, then suddenly stopped. The car had no sooner passed us and the hill again become bare, than the ghost appeared at the summit, gliding swiftly in mid-air, just as on previous occasions.

"There he comes!" we both exclaimed together in excited whispers. "Remember, now—Say, you ain't trembling, are you?"

"Oh, no! I always feel a little chilly at night. But what were you going to say? Speak quick!"

"Remember, now, the moment he gets close enough we'll rush out; and when I say 'Shoot!' you pump cold lead into that snowy skull, while I ladle some pellets between his ribs. Let him have it five times in succession. And don't forget, it's got to be all accidental,—we were paralyzed into the deed by the 'superhuman monstrosity.' I first cried, 'Stop, or we'll shoot!' then, wild, frenzied, crazy with fear, we killed him in self-defense. Don't forget what I tell you, for you'll have to swear to it."

But the time for talking had now passed. The demon had already entered the block in which we lay concealed.

"Now, then, rush for the middle of the street!"

We rushed, and in doing so I passed through the most awful moments I have ever experienced.

When still within fifty feet of the hideous monster, a dark figure, armed with a long club, sprang suddenly from a doorway on the opposite side of the street, and in another moment the ghost lay prostrate on the ground.

The unexpected scene passed like a flash of lightning before our astonished eyes; and before we had fully realized what had happened, we stood breathless behind the slayer, as he, unconscious of our presence, stooped over his fallen victim.

"What are you doing here?"

The stern demand was accompanied by a firm grip on the destroyer's arm.

Startled as if shot, the latter sprang forward in a frantic attempt to flee, but, finding himself hopelessly in custody, he stared wildly at his captors.

"Speak quick! What are you doing here?"

"Him not my ghost!" was uttered in the meek, trembling tones of a Celestial.

"Very good. You are our prisoner. We are United States detectives. Pick up the ghost and come with us," demanded my companion.

"Me velly muchee"—

"Don't say another word!" The command was emphasized by a fiendish flourish of the speaker's revolver.

With one arm encircling the body of his victim, while the other rested in the firm grasp of one of his captors,—armed with the deadly club as an additional safeguard of self-defence,—the Chinaman was placed between us, and without another word hurriedly marched to my friend's office on Kearney Street near by.

There, behind locked doors, and after imposing upon our prisoner the solemn injunction that any attempt to escape or raise an alarm would be promptly followed by the death penalty, we proceeded to throw light upon the object that had agitated our minds as nothing had ever done before.

Fidelity to truth compels the candid admission that, as we anxiously scrutinized the frightful demon now prostrate, helpless, and inanimate, he no longer impressed us as a formidable foe.

True, the skull and skeleton arm, chalked to ghastly whiteness, still awakened feelings akin to horror; but even the first glance disclosed the fact that our prize was lacking in certain elements of harmony and completeness highly essential to a really great ghost.

In fact, a sense of keen disappointment came over us both when, emboldened by the evident fact that the ghost was hopelessly and irreclaimably defunct, we rudely lifted the drapery and disclosed to our astonished view an anatomy whose painful simplicity and harmless incompleteness caused a smile to steal even over the face of the terrified heathen.

In other words, one look convinced us that, although technically present, our ghost was spiritually absent and physically imperfect.

Briefly described from memory, the plan and specifications that governed his creation are these: The human skull already alluded to, to which was securely attached one end of a gas-pipe twelve feet long and one inch in diameter. The other end of this pipe was flattened to readily admit its passing through the "grip" slot on the cable road, and was provided with a pair of self-acting spring pinchers, ingeniously constructed of nickel, and so attired as to act in the capacity of a "grip." Front and rear guards, which were attached to the pipe to prevent the accidental falling of the ghost, completed its lower extremities. Just below the skull, the pipe passed through a piece of board two feet long and three inches wide, which served as shoulders. Over this the white shroud, that fell within two feet of the ground, was loosely thrown; while to one end of the board the skeleton arm was fastened. Lower down, a second board, rounded at its ends, served to give the drapery the necessary "spread," and also prevented the skull from being fractured by the non-accidental falls consequent upon the monster's frequent capture.

"John," I said, after completing our examination, "look at these two loaded revolvers, and then tell us what you've got to say for yourself."

"Him not my ghost!"

"Whose is it?"

"Him Wun Lung's ghost."

"Who is One Lung, and where does he live?"

"You no catchee him."

"Why not?"

"Him dead."

"Why did you knock down the ghost?"

"Wun Lung him say, 'Go catchee ghost.'"

"Here! You just said One Lung was dead!" exclaimed my companion, moving toward the prisoner.

"Tell me, do you believe in the sacredness of an oath?"

"No sabe."

"Dare you deny upon your word of honor, or over your own signature, that this whole thing is a foul plot,—a plot nursed by fraud and reared by iniquity; a deep-laid plot on the part of a lot of highbinders, of whom you are the arch-foe, to conspire against the peace and dignity of this community?"

"No sabe! Me velly sick!"

"Villain! In the name of the Chief of Police and the Mayor of the city of San Francisco, the Governor of the State of California, and the President of the United States of America, I call upon you to witness these firearms and the lariat you see hanging yonder, and if you don't answer the questions I shall put to you, we'll hang you out of this window and then shoot you full of holes!"

"No sabe! Me feelee velly, velly bad."

"Prisoner, stand up."

He arose.

"You may now proceed to state categorically your name, age, occupation, how long you have held such position and where previously employed; your residence; for what period of time prior to the municipal election last past you had occupied such domicile; whether you have on previous occasions been apprehended; if so, how many; and furthermore, whether you are married or single, and if not, why not. Now answer me categorically, as aforesaid; and if you withhold or pervert a single incriminating circumstance, my 'gun' will tell you of it."

Even before I had regained my breath, the Celestial, whose small, sunken eyes now bulged wildly out, as he stood fiercely eyeing his questioner, broke out in loud and deeply agitated tones:—

"You no sabe my name velly muchee. You callum me categorically. My name Sing Lo. Me velly good cook, me."

"Hold on, John," I shouted. "Nel"—But, not heeding my words, he continued:—

"Me no catchee moonce's pal. Me catchee onlee Wun Lung's ghost. Heap Melican talkee, plentea foolen mit 'gun' makes me velly much sick!"

"Nelson," I said, "I object; this can't go on."

"What's the matter? We must lay down the law to the guilty heathen. I am proceeding under the sixty-seventh rule of the Federal Statutes"—

"Doing what?"

"My dear fellow, don't you suppose I know how to draw out a witness? Besides, in our thirst for facts and justice, we mustn't forget that the strong arm of the law vouchsafes to even the most humble and unfortunate of God's creatures a full and fair hearing. In other words, we must temper justice with mercy, and I am only doing what the chivalry of my profession demands of me."

"If such is the chivalry of law, I move for an adjournment to enable the prisoner to procure counsel; or I must at least insist upon a brief recess in order that he may prepare his case for that Court before which certain lawyers are not permitted to enter an appearance."

"Nonsense! We want the facts, don't we?"

"Yes."

"Well, ain't I getting them? Just let me alone and you may bet that I'll bring him up short, hopelessly tangled up in his own testimony. You're not a lawyer. What are you finding fault with me for?"

"I don't find fault with your scaring the helpless heathen. I don't mind your hanging him. As a matter of fact, I don't object to your shooting him. But in the name of the common 'Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man,' I do protest against downright torture."

"Me velly sleepie; me likee go home now," meekly chimed in the Chinese.

"Nelson," I said, "I'll match you pennies to see which of us is to give Sing Lo a dollar, so that he'll tell us the whole story about the ghost."

"I'll do it, but it isn't good law."

"Here you are, Sing, there's your dollar; now tell us every thing, and then we'll let you go."

"You give back Wun Lung's ghost?"

"Yes; go on."

"All lile."

Wun Lung, velly good Chinese man, him dead now. Keepee laundry, Dupont Street, not long 'go. Velly well. One day big Melican man, him name Mick-ee O'Blime, Ilishman allee samee he say, 'You sellee laundry?'"

"Wun Lung him say, 'Not

muchee, Mistel O'Blime."

"Ilishman say, 'Me likee catchee saloon.'"

"Wun Lung him say, 'Me catchee dolla, six bittee, sometime two dolla day, best place in de citee; me likee to stay.'"

"Velly good lile! Ilishman say, 'Me makee you sickie. Chinese must go.'"

"Not muchee! Me stickie to washee, me and Sing Lo. You talkee heap boshee; Ilish must go."

"Big Ilishman say, 'Me give you heap kickee, you Chinese galoot; smashee mit blickee, ugly mud snoot.'"

"Wun Lung him sing out: 'Now Mistel Mickee, stop foolie, you please. You slingee one blickee, me cullum police.'"

"Whoop! Velly fly Ilishman catchee him 'gun'—shoot heap holes into Wun Lung,—dead velly quick."

"Sing Lo," I asked, "what became of this man Mike O'Brien?"

"Him keepee ginee-mill now. Smashee up laundry."

"Didn't the police arrest him?"

"Ha! Ilishman heap 'solid' mit police, catchee velly big 'pull' mit Ilish-Melican judgee. Him say, 'You shootem Chinese, Mistel O'Blime? Self-defence, five-dolla fine. Next.' You sabe?"

"Yes, we sabe; but how about the ghost?"

"Velly good. Now Wun Lung have one son. He say, 'Me fixee big Ilish blute.'"

"Do you mean to say," interrupted my companion, "that this little Lung called O'Brien 'a big Irish brute'? Mike is a particular friend of mine."

"Him velly bad egg allee samee."

"Go on with your story, Sing Lo. Here's two bits more for you. Now tell us all about this second Lung."

"All lile. By'n by Wun Lung—him young Wun Lung—fixum up velly fly ghost of ole Wun Lung—him dead. 'Me makee Ilishman heap sickie of ginee-mill,' he say to me an' Ah Wing. Ah Wing, he velly good Chinese boy, stickum 'grip' on cable. Ghost fly likee debbill down hill. Me, Sing Lo, catchee mit club, fixum 'grip,' an' ghost scootee up hill likee debbill. Ah Wing he catchee mit club, an' ghost scootee down hill likee debbill. Allee same time Wun Lung him playem 'tickee-tackee' on Ilishman window. Ilishman velly drunk; wakee up, lookem out window,—Wun Lung's ghost flyem likee debbill. Velly quick Mistel O'Blime gettee heap sick of ginee-mill—him flyem likee debbill. Wun Lung catchee laundry. You sabe?"

"Yes, but how does Mike know that it's Wun Lung's ghost?"

"Him onlee wun aim."

"Did old One Lung have only one arm?"

"Him did. He looseem one in China; fallce down one day, brakem off. Me velly sleepie, now me likee go home."

"Wait a minute. 'The chivalry of the law' entitles you to witness-fees from the Chief of Police and Mayor of San Francisco, the Governor of California, and the President of the United States of America." Nelson, hand the witness six bits."

"I will, if he answers one question."

"Ask it, if it's short; if not, I'll shoot."

"Sing Lo, what did you call the thing you 'fixum' to the cable?"

"Me callum 'grip.' Wun Lung him callum 'nickel.' He say, 'Putem nickel in slot, Ilishman seeem ghost.'"

"All right, here are your witness-fees. You may go now, Chilce."

"Chilce," repeated the Chinaman with an astonished grin. "You speakee Chinese velly well." Then, taking the ghost tenderly under his arm, he hurriedly passed to the outer darkness.

Half an hour later, on my way home, I stopped at Dupont Street, and there, near the corner, my eye met the sign:—

MICHAEL O'BRIEN,

CHOICE WINES AND LIQUORS.

As I drew the shades at my window that night, I earnestly hoped that one of two possible things might prove true: either that Michael had retired unusually sober, and, responding to the "tickee-tackee," had seen the ghost as I had seen it; or, in case he had, as was not unreasonable to conclude, sought repose under other conditions, he had at least been so "velly drunk" as to insure his experiencing, without being aroused, that "magnetic mutuality of spirits" the poet had immortalized.

A day or two after my adventure I was called to Oregon, and from that day to this I have neither heard nor seen any thing more of the ghost.

Curiosity led me, however, on my return to San Francisco, three weeks later, to revisit the scene of the fatal brutality Sing Lo had so graphically detailed.

Even my first glance from a distance assured me that a great change had come over the premises. As I drew near and read on the small, crude sign the four tell-tale words,

WUN LUNG,

CHINESE LAUNDRY,

I experienced, amid the sea of ghostly recollections that floated across my memory, that feeling of sweet satisfaction which, though a stranger to the heart of the true Christian, serves materially to brighten the pathway of the honest sinner. And I wondered, as I turned to go, whether the man who was "solid" with the police wouldn't, after all, have gladly exchanged his strong "pull" on the law for even a gentle "pull" on—the ghost of Wun Lung.

THE END.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

The situation was becoming desperate. Even if the wagon held firm there was the possibility that Mrs. Lucas might be overcome with exposure and fright and be swept out of the wagon, unless she received prompt assistance.

What was to be done? It was evident that



The War Correspondent.

cal, for a successful correspondent are so rarely found combined in one man that but few have risen to great prominence, and it would seem that, like geniuses, they are "born, not made." First and foremost he must be a thorough journalist, knowing to a nicety what the vast public hanging on his words wants most to hear about. He must be a man of iron constitution, endurance and steady nerves, quick of resource, indomitable in energy. He must be accurate in statement, uninfluenced by wild and exciting rumors, with graphic and picturesque descriptive powers, ready on the instant to correctly portray with pen and pencil the scenes around him. He must be a man of deep insight, ever vigilant, the first in the field, and the last to leave it, as it were—and always to the front. He must possess a high order of military talent, and his grasp of the situation must be almost as great as that of the generals in the field, whose confidence he must possess. This military instinct enables him not only to keep himself in the fore-front of

He is now proprietor of the paper for which he then wrote and which during the Franco-Prussian War astonished the world by paying twenty thousand dollars for a single cable message describing a great battle.

general is the sport that they have an annual festival—the Feast of Kites—upon which day the sky is filled with strange monsters made of paper or silk of gigantic size and frightful form, who with whirling pin-wheel eyes, gaping mouths and lashing tails, tug angrily at the cords which control them. Up the string from time to time are sent “travelers” or “messengers” of paper with bamboo framework. These bear fireworks of various kinds which explode in mid-air. Then the messengers fold up and slide down back to the sender. By skillful manipulation of the string these brilliantly hued monsters go through the most extraordinary antics and fairly seem alive. Oftentimes more than one man is required to manage them. In the evening the sky is filled with whole constellations of beautiful paper lanterns, attached to the huge kites.

MUSIC SIGHT READING, PROBLEM SOLVED, any instrument, size of arrangement 10 x 12, sent anywhere for 25 cts. U.S. stamps taken. A MOST VALUABLE INVENTION, Copyrighted. Miss E. CARLSTROM, Woodhaven, N.Y.

the watch at any time within ONE YEAR if it does not give perfect satisfaction. All we ask

prize offered and give them honestly.



SUNSHINE AND SYMPATHY FOR THE SHUT-INS.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:
Does it make you sad to see all around us the tokens of the coming winter? If it were not for its mournful prophecy, October would be one of the most beautiful months of the year; but the brilliant hues and ripening fruits are signs of decay. Nature's gay mourning for the death of lovely Summer. Later on she will cover everything with the soft white mantle of sleep. Does she mean by these bright colors to teach us that we should not regret the dying year? We will take her lesson, and look forward with hope into the future, believing that Our Father has something in store for us which will far exceed the blessings of the past.

Let me give you a few words from a little book which has always helped me, before we go on to the letters.
"As soon as you wake in the morning, try to realize God stretching forth His hand toward you, and saying: Dost thou really desire that I should watch over thee this day? and you, lift up your hands toward this kind Father, and say to Him: Yes, yes, lead me, guide me, love me, I will be very submissive! Beneath God's protecting hand, it is possible that you can be sorrowful, fearful, unhappy? No, God will allow no suffering, no trial above what you are able to bear. None can harm you, unless it be God's will, and if He allows it, be patient and humble; weep if your heart is sore, but love always, and wait—the trial will pass away, but God will remain yours forever."

Now we have had a little talk and reading together, and we will pass on to the letters.
"I want to send a few lines of hope and cheer to the Shut-Ins. I want to tell them to rejoice greatly, because 'the Lord hath chosen the weak things of this world.' He has 'hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes.' Because 'whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.' Is not this a proof that they are His own children, and that He has received them? 'Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial that is to try you, as if some strange thing happened to you. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of His sufferings, that when His glory be revealed, ye may be glad with exceeding great joy.' It is of very great importance that we should be full of the spirit of submission, and the oil of gladness, when the Bridegroom comes, for it is impossible for the children of self-will to go with Him to the wedding."

STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS.

Tempest-tossed, perplexed, uncertain,
In the wilderness with Thee,
In the place where Thou wast strengthened,
Son of man, now strengthen me.
When the clouds are gathered round me,
And my barque's far out at sea,
Master, on the troubled waters,
Manifest Thy strength in me.
And when lonely in the garden,
Fairest spot on earth to me,
In the hour of bitter trial,
Give Thy will the victory.
When I'm toiling up the mountain,
Bearing there a cross for Thee,
Give me strength Thy will to finish,
Saviour, King of Calvary. AUNT CARRIE."

"I am very poor, but not too poor to give one-tenth of my little income to the Lord as a thank-offering for mercies bestowed. I did not know what to do with so small an amount, but COMFORT came and showed me that I could use it in postage, and write a few letters as well as I could. I have suffered a great deal, though not now a Shut-In on account of health, but from circumstances. I think it would be a good plan if the invalids would unite in a service of song on Sabbath morning, singing old time favorites from Gospel Hymns, or even reading them. May the Lord bless you all in the wish of
Mrs. R. E. WEBB, Vermillion, Ohio."

I am sure that the Lord will bless your little offering "In His Name," even as He blessed the widow's mite. You could not put it to a better use than for this work, of writing to the suffering and lonely ones.

"I am a poor deaf Shut-off, and my health is so bad that I hardly ever get out of my own door-yard. I have no near neighbors, for we live on a farm, and I have been stone-deaf for the past five years; there are so many noises in my head that I can tell no difference when standing within ten yards of a passing train of cars. A person who is not deaf cannot realize the loneliness and desolate life of a deaf person. It seems so hard to be shut off from the sweet songs of the birds, and what is worse than all, not to be able to hear my baby's prattle; he looks so pitiful sometimes when he is trying to make me understand something and cannot, and will go away with his little lip quivering. Many are the bitter tears that I have shed from this cause. Best wishes for COMFORT.
Mrs. K. MORRIS, Victor, Mont."

"I want to thank the kind friend who sent me some help when it was so much needed; the Master will surely reward her when He comes to make up His jewels. How cheering to us Shut-Ins to receive letters and mementoes! It is a change in the daily routine of our lives. I am poor in this world's goods, but have faith to believe that the Lord will provide. I have been through the deep waters of affliction and it has brought me nearer to the Saviour. He says that those who endure to the end shall be saved. I would love to hear from all who would write.
Mrs. M. A. PROVOST,
Greenwich Ave., Stamford, Conn."

"As you wished to know more about the Hot Pots which I mentioned in my first letter, I will give a brief description of them. Many of these 'Pots' are pyramidal in form, and reach to the height of 10 to 25 feet, while others do not rise above the surface. The 'Big White Mound,' as it is called, is almost perpendicular, is 75 or 100 ft. high, about 300 ft. in diameter at the base, and 300 ft. at the top, the interior being about 20 ft. in diameter; its depth is not known. Most of the pots contain warm water, varying in temperature, but it is thought that it all emanates from the same source, evidently passing through strata of limestone in its subterranean course which causes it to become warm; when it reaches the surface, it evaporates and deposits its solid matter. Hence the mounds, which were without doubt hundreds of years in construction. Several of the pots are now dry. It is said that years ago, a man lost his life in one of them, which, it is believed, caused the pot to dry out. The body was never taken out, but lies at the bottom in a petrified condition. It is presumed that the pots are more or less connected underneath the surface, for when driving about them, a sound is heard like distant thundering, which is a sign that the covering of the subterranean water is very thin in places. A fine bath house, a large hotel, and a saloon, have recently been erected on the 'Big Hot Pot,' which is becoming quite famous as a pleasure resort. If any of the cousins would like information about Utah, I should be pleased to furnish it.
JOHN PROBST,
Midway, Wasatch Co., Utah."

"COMFORT is a fine little paper. I enjoy Aunt Minerva's Chats best of any part, and was much interested in the Pictorial page. I am an invalid, though not an entire Shut-In; I have never known a

well day since childhood, but when my burden seems heavy, I can always see some one more sadly afflicted than myself, and that helps me to be more patient. My home is in a busy, thriving little town in northern Illinois, where the beautiful prairie farming country around us is exceedingly fine. I am wearing the silver cross I. H. N., and have been enrolled as a member of Mrs. Bottom's circle in New York. Why do the cousins never say anything about flowers? Is that a forbidden topic? It is one I am passionately fond of, having a window full of nice plants, and when my friends want to make me unacceptably happy, they bring me a new or choice plant. Of course many of the cousins do drawn work. I have done a great deal, which, with my writing each week, supports me, except board. May success ever attend COMFORT and its readers.
FLORA D. STEARNS, Hebron, Ill."

"I have been making some nice house jackets or matinees, and will tell you about them, in the hope that those who, like myself, cannot wear tight dress waists, may be benefited by the description. An old white albatross dress furnished material for two. Half the goods was dyed a delicate pink with weak cosine dye, and the other half dyed lavender with diluted violet dye. They are both made like long basques, with coat fronts and loose full vests. The pink one has a vest of cream surah, and is edged down the fronts of the coat part and around the neck and sleeves, with ruchings of fringed silk. The lavender one has a vest of yellow China silk, and collar, cuffs, and revers of violet velvet, embroidered with yellow and violet pansies. One yellow and one lavender ribbon confine it at the waist. The velvet was old, and the silk was a remnant. Another one is made of crimson rep, with a vest of black silk, and collar and cuffs of black velvet. The rep was the back breadth of an old wrapper. My last one was made of some half cotton broad silk (?) which was originally black, but had become rusty brown. A bath of black dye for cotton, made it a fresh black color. It has a vest of scarlet China silk (an old wrapper front) and is feather-stitched with scarlet silk. These jackets are so comfortable and handy that everybody, sick or well, ought to have several. They are made so they can be put on over a night-dress. I hope some one will be moved by my description to get up one for themselves or for some invalid friend.
JEAN HUNT."

These suggestions are delightfully practical, and will surely prove useful to some one of our band. It is one of the trials of partial invalidism, not to be able to dress "like other folks"; but the neat and pretty jackets which Jean Hunt describes are at once stylish and comfortable. Outing cloth trimmed with coarse white or ecru lace make very pretty and inexpensive matinees, as does also the cotton flannels which can now be found in such dainty shades.

"The page devoted to the Shut-Ins looks so inviting that I must write a line, for I am a Shut-In in the fullest sense of the word, as I have not known a well day in nineteen years. I am called very patient, perhaps long suffering has brought about this condition. Reading the Bible does not make me sad, but I like other reading, and read all the good novels I can get. I am thankful to have the use of my hands and eyes. I can knit and sew; can knit almost anything. I am not a pauper, but would be glad for some pieces of silk or plush for my quilt, or reading matter. COMFORT is a bright, cheerful paper; I read all the letters.
Mrs. L. A. MARTIN, Des Moines, Iowa."

"We who are denied the pleasures of life, often enjoy descriptions of pleasant scenery, bits of travel, etc., and as I have enjoyed much reading a letter written by a friend who went to India last autumn, describing a trip to the Himalaya mountains, I felt that I must pass it on, to refresh some other weary one. I never tire thinking of the beauties of nature in that far away land, as she describes them.

The first part of the journey was made by rail; the remaining part in an ox cart. She says, 'I spent the first night locked in the ladies compartment of the train; and reached the terminus of the railroad on the morning of an exceedingly hot day; and was doomed to the miserable little station waiting room until cool enough to go on.' At last at 4 o'clock in the afternoon we made ourselves comfortable with our rugs and pillows in the straw bottomed vehicles, and the oxen commenced their monotonous all night's climb up among the mountains. As they traveled at the rate of two and a half miles an hour, we had an excellent opportunity to view the scenery which was magnificent.

I kept myself awake by drinking cold tea so that I might not miss it.
I had never supposed our own New England hills could be surpassed in grandeur or beauty, but these towering cliffs covered with trees that seemed to stretch their bare trunks to the sky itself, the tiny mountain nooks and cascades all along the way, and the wonderful banks of red and white roses that lined the road on either side, made a continual panorama of such weird beauty in the brilliant tropical moonlight, as I never even imagined before.

I never enjoyed a night so much in my life. I reached my destination early in the morning, and found a warm welcome and a bed awaiting me. I tumbled into the latter without ceremony; and did not so much as look about me until next day, but when I recovered sufficiently to do so, my astonishment and delight were unbounded.
This beautiful town is perched upon the hilltops like a flock of birds just alighted and is a favorite resort of the English people.

The roads, or rather tracks are all straight up hill. The change from a temperature of 118 to 120 in Madras to that of 60 here was very trying at first; and the air is so rare from the elevation of 8,000 feet above the sea level, as to make breathing or climbing a difficult matter; but the climate is tropical, and the wealth of vegetation is beautiful beyond description.
Every ditch and muddy by the wayside is crowded with magnificent calla lilies. Hedges of beautiful roses, heliotrope, tree-fuschias, and oleander border every pathway.

Our hen-coop is surrounded by an impenetrable hedge of heliotrope, much higher than my head, and a mass of fragrant blossoms. The queer part of it is, there is no order of seasons here, as at home, and violets and chrysanthemums, Easter lilies and dahlias grow side by side.

The grass is full of bright red geraniums that assume astonishing proportions. The front of our veranda is completely covered with a magnificent climbing fuchsia, brilliant mass of scarlet bloom, every twig twig hanging full of blossoms.
A lemon veranda as large as a good sized apple-tree stands just outside my door, shedding its delightful fragrance far and wide. It measures 41 inches around the trunk, and is covered with a climbing nasturtium. It is all so lovely.

The fruit too, is as topsy turvy as the flowers, and we have strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, peaches, pears, oranges, mangoes and bananas all the same day, until one feels that the world has gone daft.
M. A. MCINTYRE, Marlboro, Mass."

If any ladies wish crocheting or knitting done, and will write me with stamp, I can generally give them the name of some worthy Shut-In who needs the work; those wishing such work please send me their names with references as to their reliability. Please do not forget what I said in the last paper in regard to references. I will now call the attention of the cousins to

OUR OPPORTUNITIES OF DOING GOOD.

E. Tarbell, Mosiertown, Crawford Co., Penn., (reading and help.)

James Gilliam, Treadway, Hawkins Co., Tenn., (help.)

Mrs. O. Roke, La Porte, Calif., (reading and help.)

Mrs. Emma Wheatway, South Pittsburgh, Tenn.

I. I. Lee, 46 Wheatland Ave., Dorchester, Mass.

Anna Morris, Box 16, Charlesville, Penn.

I will now close the column with the

COMFORT BIRTHDAY LIST FOR SHUT-INS.

Mrs. E. Jones, Alexander City, Ala., Oct. 4.
Ben C. Knight, Enfield, N. C., Oct. 21.
I shall publish each month only the birthdays occurring in that month and the next; but those who send names and dates to me may be assured that they are carefully kept, and will appear at the proper time. Each column is made up about two months before publication, so that letters must be sent in a long time ahead. I will explain, for the benefit of those who do not know about the Birthday List, that those whose names appear are worthy invalids, and would like to receive letters and little presents to make their birthdays pleasant.
With loving wishes for all, AUNT MINERVA.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESS.

"Among other notable and valuable enterprises having their headquarters in New York City, must be included that of Mr. W. S. SIMPSON, the well-known Watch dealer, whose office and salesroom are located at No. 37 College Place. His is one of the leading concerns of its kind in the metropolis, and has gained a national reputation for the high-class value of its stock. Mr. Simpson, personally, is prominently known in the business world, is noted for his equitable methods of dealing, and commands the confidence and highest regard of all with whom he comes in contact."—People's Home Journal, September, 1892.

\$5 A DAY. Agent samples Free. Horse owners buy 3 to 9. 20 fast selling specialties. E. E. BREWSTER, Box 7, Holly, Mich.

WATCH FREE—If you want one send a stamp to the National Illus. Magazine, Washington, D. C.

QUIT AR self-taught without notes; 24 charts 50c without notes; 80 pp., 100 pieces \$1. Cir. & cat. of Inst's free. E. C. HOWE, 85 Fifth av., Chicago

Photos 20 Beauties and a Song Book only 10c. Address Box 90, Clyde, Ill.

\$50 a WEEK. We want you to sell our self-filling, self-extinguishing, non-explosive Lamp Burners. Selling at sight. To those meaning business, sample free. Exclusive territory given. PHENIX CO., 22 Mechanic St., Newark, N. J.

BICYCLES GIVEN AWAY. FREE TO BOYS & GIRLS UNDER 16. If any Boy or Girl wants an elegant High Grade Safety Bicycle (26 inch wheels) free on easy conditions, write at once to WESTERN PEARL CO., Chicago, Ill.

SILVERWARE. WATCHES-JEWELRY. Big Salary or Commission. Elegant satin lined Casket of Spoons, Knives, &c. AGENTS WANTED. Wallingford Silver Co., FREE Box 5, Wallingford, Conn.

I START YOU In Practical Photography to earn money at home. Only a small investment and no experience required. Gentle business for MEN and WOMEN. It will PAY YOU. Sample Photo and 48-page book of particulars for 2 cents. O. O. SCHULTZ, 5 Chatham Sq., New York.

How to MAKE A Fortune

WANTED—Salesmen; who can easily make \$25 to \$75 per week, selling the Celebrated Pinless Clothes Line or the Famous Fountain Ink Eraser; patents recently issued. Sold ONLY by salesmen to whom we give EXCLUSIVE TERRITORY. The Pinless Clothes Line is the only line ever invented that holds clothes without pins—a perfect success. The Fountain Ink Eraser is entirely new, will erase ink instantly, and is king of all. On receipt of 20c. will mail sample of either, or sample of both for \$1, with circulars, price-lists and terms. Secure your territory at once. THE PINLESS CLOTHES LINE CO., 121 Hermon Street, Worcester, Mass.

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To introduce goods quickly I make this liberal offer: I will give any lady One Dozen Tea Spoons, Heavy Silver plated, latest artistic design, warranted to wear, who will dispose of 1 Dozen Boxes of Hawley's Corn Salve (care warranted) among friends, at 25c a box. I ask no money in advance, simply send your name; I mail you salve, postage paid. When sold you send the money and I will mail you the 1 dozen handsome Tea Spoons. I take salve back if you can't sell. I run all the risk. Address R. HAWLEY, Chemist, Berlin, Wisconsin.

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PICTURES, AUTO, VERSES & RIDDLES FREE. WITH LOTS OF CARDS AND PRESENTS. FADDER & CO., MONTICELLO, CONN.

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MOUTH ORGAN Chart teaches any one to play a tune in 10 minutes. Circular 2c. Agents wanted. Music Novelty Co., Detroit, Mich.

IF you want to get Cheap Jewelry, Tricks, Novelties, Musical Instruments, Toys or Books, send postal Card for NEW Illustrated Catalogue. FREE. E. A. NASON & CO., 111 Nassau Street, No. 11, York

18K Rolled Gold Diamond Ring Free. Send rolled gold plate, will wear for years. Rings, an Egyptian Diamond that purifies expensive teeth. Each this advertisement must come with string of paper, and we will send this ring, 18K rolled gold and new 18K, value of \$10.00, with diamond and necklace. DIAMOND WATCH CO., Chicago, Ill.

MORPHINE AND OPIUM HABIT Cured Painlessly. Eight days trial. Free Oriental Remedy Co., Box 231, Lafayette, Ind.

CURES in 3 to 10 DAYS. Tender, Feet, Scalded and Perspiring. Don't stop the pores. Not a powder. Don't send stamps. By mail 80 cts. 2 ct. stamp for Treatise. THE WILSON DRUG CO., Greeley, Colo.

SALESMEN WANTED to sell our goods by sample to the wholesale and retail trade. Liberal salary and expenses paid. Permanent position. Money advanced for wages, advertising, etc. For full particulars and reference address CENTENNIAL MFG. CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

FAT FOLKS using "Anti-Corpulene Pills" lose 15 lbs. a month. They cause no sickness, contain no poison and never fail. Sold by Druggists everywhere or sent by mail. Fatigue (see) 4c. WILCOX SPECIFIC CO., Phila., Pa.

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and a legally executed guarantee that CALTHOS will RESTORE your HEALTH, STRENGTH AND VIGOR.

Use it & pay if satisfied. Von Mohl Co., Importers, Cincinnati, Ohio.

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SADIE'S SILKEN SHOWER OF SATIN SAMPLES

ART in needle-work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin,—"CRAZY QUILT" making is VERY FASHIONABLE. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all NEW YORK FACTORIES; for years have been burdened and over-run with remnants of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade on. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 50 to 150 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; when you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store. GRAND OFFER: If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you, absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants but we know if you order ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer. "Three lots for \$1.00. BEST WAY. We send one of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months subscription to "COMFORT," the best Home Monthly now published, or if you send for more than one lot as above, "COMFORT" goes for one year.

COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 120, Augusta, Maine.

BETTER YET. To all answering this ad. before 30 days we will also send 6 pieces of elegant PLUSH FREE. They come in Red, Blue, Green, Old Gold, etc.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.

A black and white illustration. In the foreground, a person is crouched in a small boat on a river, appearing to be working with something on the ground. To the right, a large flag is partially visible. In the background, a row of trees lines the riverbank. The style is simple and graphic.

Luckily Frank saved him from going overboard, and laying him down seized the oars and rowed for the shore. The Professor was still unconscious when

CORA V. SCOTT.

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is the latest musical craze. We send this great song and *Five hundred and ninety-nine* other popular pieces (words and music complete) to anyone addressing the Publishers of COMFORT sending 25c. for a six months' subscription. This is the only chance you will have to get so many dollars worth of music for so small a sum.

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We will give one half-round Ring

we will give you half-round Kings
18k Rolled Gold plate and war
ranted to anyone who will sell
1 doz. "indestructible" Lamp Wicks
(need no trimming) among friends at 10cts. each. Write us
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The last rose of summer has given way to the aster and chrysanthemum, those Autumn beauties, about which an interesting article will appear in our November issue.

The reader of COMFORT who fails to peruse the prize stories begun in this issue under the head of The Nutshell Story Club, will miss a rare treat, and every non-reader who fails to promptly provide himself with a year's COMFORT at the trivial cost of 25 cents, will miss a dozen rare treats.

A thoughtful and observant writer has said that the unselfish mother makes a selfish child. Her unceasing devotion develops a feeling in the petted son or daughter, that such service is due; and endless calls upon "mother" from babyhood to mature age, deprive her of the leisure that is the right of every human being. She must know just where "everything" is belonging to every member of the family. She must be at hand to rectify the trouble caused by some one's forgetfulness or carelessness. She must, in short, be the white slave of husband and children, while her brain goes un-nourished, her intellect starves and her physical strength gives way in needless toil. The mother should insist on every member of her household's having a personal responsibility for its own possessions, just as soon as babyhood has been outgrown. It is better for mother and infinitely better for the child.

Commencing October 19th the ceremonies of dedication of the World's Fair, which will be held in Chicago, will last three days. The first event will be a reception given to the President, his Cabinet and other distinguished guests. On the second day the civic display will take place, consisting of a mammoth parade of innumerable civic societies. This procession, which will be emblematic of the triumphs of peace and industry, will be reviewed by the President. In the evening a superb water pageant will pass through the waterways and lagoons of the exposition grounds, which latter will at night be flooded with electric light. Each of the vessels will be modelled after the exact naval construction of the age which will be depicted in brilliant tableaux upon its decks, and the various periods and races to be represented are: The Aboriginal Age, representing the American Indians; the Stone Age, representing the cliff dwellers; the Age of Metal, representing the Aztecs, their manners, customs and religious rites; Columbus at the Court of Ferdinand and Isabella; the Departure of Columbus from Palos; the Discovery of America; the Return of Columbus, presenting natives and strange products before the Court. Following this will be represented the English Cavaliers and the settlement of Jamestown; Henry Hudson's Discovery of the Hudson River, also the Dutch Settlement at New Amsterdam; the Landing of the Pilgrims and an illustration of early Puritan Life. Then Ferdinand de Soto and the Discovery of the Mississippi; the French explorers, Marquette, LaSalle and the opening of the Great Northwest. Next the Colonial period; Washington and his generals; the Signing of the Declaration of Independence; the Thirteen original States; the sisterhood of the great republic, welcoming the Territories to the constellation of States; the Great West; the Genius of Invention, steam, electricity, etc.; War, representing valor, sacrifice, power, death and devastation; Peace, representing tranquillity, security, prosperity and happiness. Then the various pursuits of man; Agriculture, Mining, Science, Art and Literature, and finally, the Universal Brotherhood of Man, equal rights, justice for all, and liberty enlightening the world.

From an historical point of view this procession of the ages will be highly instructive, while as a spectacle it will be superb.

On the third day the ceremony of the Dedication of the Fair will commence at dawn with the national salute. In the forenoon the Pres-

ident, his Cabinet, members of the Supreme Court and of both branches of Congress, distinguished foreign guests, Governors of States, etc., will be escorted by detachments of the regular army and of the militia to the immense building of Manufactures and Liberal Arts. In the afternoon the exercises will consist of music and singing, the report of the Director General and other World's Fair officials, the dedication of the buildings by the President; closing with an oration by Dr. Chauncy M. Depew. In the evening a specially unique display of electrical effects and fireworks will be given, together with a repetition of the boat tableaux of the previous night.

The exercises of the fourth day will be notable, as they will be devoted to military maneuvers conducted upon such a colossal scale as to furnish a most magnificent spectacle and an awe-inspiring object-lesson of the mighty power of the American nation.

Facts About the Cholera.

HOW PEOPLE CATCH IT.—HOW TO PREVENT, AND HOW TO CURE IT.

The prevalence of cholera in foreign countries, together with the fact that thousands of emigrants are at present detained on cholera infested ships at quarantine in New York harbor, render it vitally important that everyone should heed the following suggestions and advice.

Don't drink unboiled water. Thorough cooking destroys the cholera germs. Don't eat raw, uncooked articles of any kind, not even milk. Don't eat or drink to excess. Use plain, wholesome, digestible food, as indigestion and diarrhoea favor an attack of cholera. Don't eat or handle food or drink with unwashed hands, or receive it from the unwashed hands of others. Don't employ utensils in eating and drinking unless they have been recently put in boiling water; the more recently the safer.

Healthy persons catch cholera by taking the germs of the disease into their systems, through the mouth, as in food or drink, or from their hands, knives, forks, plates, tumblers, clothing, etc. The germs are also always present in the discharges from the stomach and bowels of those sick with cholera; therefore, don't use the hands for any purpose when soiled with cholera discharges; thoroughly cleanse them at once. Personal cleanliness, cleanliness of the living and sleeping rooms and their contents, and thorough ventilation should be rigidly enforced, and foul waterclosets, sinks, cellars, etc. should be avoided and when present should be promptly disinfected with the solution of carbolic acid and water mentioned below, and referred to the physician, who will suggest further remedies.

Delays are dangerous, both to the patient and to the community. Common-sense demands that the earliest symptoms of this disease be promptly recognized and properly treated. Don't doctor yourself for bowel complaint, but go to bed and send for a doctor at once. If taken suddenly ill out of doors, go to the nearest neighbor and await the arrival of a physician.

Don't permit vomit or diarrhoeal discharges to come in contact or proximity to food, drink or clothing. These discharges should be received in proper vessels and kept covered until removed under competent directions. Pour boiling water upon them, put a strong solution of carbolic acid in them (not less than one part of acid to twenty of hot soap-suds or water). Don't wear, handle or use any clothing or furniture soiled with cholera discharges. Pour boiling water upon them or put them into it and scrub them with the carbolic acid solution recommended above.

Don't sleep in damp beds or damp rooms. Don't wear damp clothing. Keep the body, and particularly the feet, warm. Don't get frightened. Lead a careful but "natural" life.

Should it be impossible to obtain prompt medical advice, the Sun Cholera Mixture, the formula of which appeared in July COMFORT and which is here republished, is a remedy approved and valued by all medical men.

THE SUN CHOLERA MIXTURE.

Take equal parts of tincture of cayenne, tincture of opium, tincture of rhubarb, essence of peppermint and spirits of camphor. Mix well. Dose, fifteen to thirty drops in a wine glass of water, according to age and violence of the attack. Repeat every fifteen or twenty minutes until relief is obtained.

HINTS ON HOME COMFORT.

To get rid of the smell of oil paint let a pailful of water stand in the room newly painted.

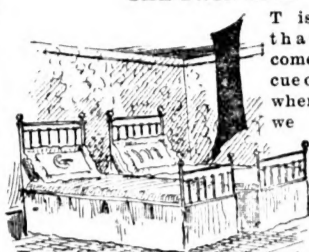
To prevent the smoking of a lamp soak the wick in strong vinegar, and dry well before using it. The flame will then burn clear and bright.

Fever-blister when they are allowed to develop are very painful and most disfiguring; and yet they can easily be cured in the beginning by keeping a ball of saltpetre on hand and at their first appearance moistening the ball with water and rubbing it on the spot.

To break a piece of window glass to any required figure, make a small notch by means of a file on the edge of the glass, then draw a red-hot iron rod the thickness of a pipe-stem slowly along the surface of the glass in any direction you please. A crack will follow the direction of the iron.

Water of every kind, except rain water, will speedily cover the inside of a teakettle with an unpleasant crust; this may easily be guarded against by placing a clean oyster shell or a piece of stone or marble in the teakettle. The shell or stone will always keep the interior of the kettle in good order, by attracting the particles of earth or of stone.

THE TWIN BED.



It is not often that fashion comes to the rescue of health and when she does we should be humbly grateful and yield unquestioning obedience to her dictates. The fashion of "twin-beds" is much to be commended on the score of health, and no fashion has more quickly obtained a firm hold. In comparatively few homes is it possible that every member of the family should have a separate sleeping room, yet all medical authorities agree that two persons should never sleep in one bed. The older absorbs the vitality of the younger the stronger draws strength from the weaker, or else both suffer. By discarding the old-fashioned double bed and replacing it by two narrow ones, hardly any space is sacrificed while the health is benefited. A favorite style with those who can afford it is the brass bedstead, which is charming in effect but expensive. Quite as pretty is the white enamelled iron bedstead with brass knobs, costing not a quarter as much as the brass. The latter may be bought for eight or ten dollars with the mattress. But even cheaper and capable of exquisitely dainty effect, is the ordinary wooden cot costing about two dollars or even less. With a curtain of delicately flowered cretonne tacked all around the frame, ruffled spread and pillow to match, the two little beds standing side by side, present an attractiveness never dreamed of by the large bedstead.

True, you may argue that you have the one and cannot afford to discard it and buy new ones, no matter how inexpensive. But think a moment. Can you afford to be wasting health and strength night after night year after year, when so slight an outlay would enable you to rise with renewed vigor after a refreshing night's sleep? That you have a small income and are compelled to work hard for a living, is the strongest possible reason why you should take especial care of your health. Breadwinners should remember that only the rich can afford to be ill.

FACTS ABOUT INVENTORS.



Take, for example, the many inventions which the earth's greatest geniuses have brought forth. These men, during their lifetime, were branded with the names of cranks and lunatics, and in judging of the usefulness and practicability of their discoveries the world at large has been almost always wrong. Think of the genius of the "lunatic" who discovered steam, or the "madman" who made the wires carry messages (for these were the names the people and newspapers of the time called them). Why, the first steamboat was called "Fulton's Folly." These lessons of the past ought to warn us all not to pass too hasty a judgment or discourage genius.

That marvellous repeating arm, the Maxim rapid-fire gun, which bears the inventor's name and is in use on some of our new steel cruisers, has a mechanism which is as near perpetual motion as we seem likely to get, inasmuch as after being once fired the gun by its recoil again loads and fires itself, and so continues indefinitely at the rate of several hundred shots per minute until the supply of cartridges gives out, or it should meet with one which failed to explode.

The inventor of this gun has also set himself to studying the problem of navigating the air and has recently made some very interesting and novel experiments. He thinks the problem will be solved, and perhaps it will not be long before he, or some other clever American will make a discovery that will revolutionize all present modes of travel. When this day comes it is to be hoped that the inventor will not be called a "crank." In fact, at the present time a huge air-ship is almost completed in Chicago, and shortly is expected to make a trial trip. The invention is moreover claimed by scientific men to be practicable.

Jules Verne's imaginary submarine boat, the Nautilus, is only a hundred years or so behind the fact, for we read of a craft of this kind now completed at Detroit, which bids fair to fulfill all expectations and requirements.

AN OCTOBER HINT.

This is the season when people are thinking about what monthlies they will subscribe for to keep them in good cheer during the coming Winter. COMFORT offers special attractions in premiums for club getters, as well as matters of special interest to its readers.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of all matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may exceed the latter limit. Contributors must write on one side of their paper only.

Every month a number of prize monograms composed of the writer's initials, will be awarded to those sending the best contributions. These monograms, which will be most desirable ornaments for stationery, cards, etc., will be printed in connection with the respective letters, and new electrotypes of same will be mailed, post paid, to the prize winners.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

LIST OF OCTOBER PRIZE WINNERS.

Delta Lamar, Florence L. Liegge,
Henry T. Hall, R. K. Thomas,
Alice H. Corning, Edith A. Perry.

Each of the above will receive by mail a new electrotypes of the prize monogram which appears in connection with his or her letter printed below.

DEAR COMFORT FRIENDS:

I am going to give you an agreeable surprise this month, by not taking up any of the space myself. I know you would rather read the letters than anything I could say, and so I will proceed to them at once.

"I live about two miles from Jackson Park, where the World's Fair is to be held. Excursions are running daily to the grounds from all over the U.S. The first carload of ornamental plants shipped by the Ponce-de-Leon Hotel of St. Augustine, Fla., has already arrived. It consists of nearly 900 plants, including several large palms. We are to have the 'Progress,' a large merchant whaler built in 1843, and one of the 37 whalers that sailed to the Arctic in 1871, when all but 5 were lost. She will be fully equipped with bomb guns, harpoons, and all the implements of whaling. An old sailor who sailed her on many voyages, will come with her." R. K. THOMAS, Fernwood, Chicago.

"I am a young man 21 years old, and have lived on the farm all my life. I think that the farm is the place for boys and girls, where they are away from the evil temptations of the city. It is claimed that many young men who would have had a bright future before them, have ruined and are ruining themselves with strong drink. When a man is aware that he is destroying and ruining himself, and yet still continues to drink, he has not sufficient will power to quit it, and hence would not have the power to become great. I would be glad to correspond with a few cousins." DAKOTA BLIZZARD.

This is a good point, and although I believe with all my heart in the suppression of the liquor traffic, I also believe that a man who has not enough will power to quit drinking in the early stages of the habit, when there are constantly before his eyes such awful examples of the results of this indulgence, would never be worth much to the world under any circumstances. A man who will deliberately allow himself to be made a slave to the worst kind of a master, and a slave for all eternity, is lacking in self respect and moral courage. Yet we should all do everything in our power to save even so weak a brother.

"How I wish *COMFORT* was a semi-monthly, so that we could hear from our cousins oftener. I wish I could shake hands with you, dear Aunt, you are just the right person in the right place. I heartily agree to all that has been said about King Alcohol and his confederates, tobacco and profanity. Dear cousins, do you know the evil which results from the use of tobacco? Not long ago I read these significant facts about the use of tobacco by boys. 'In an experimental observation of 88 boys of all classes of society, and of average health, who had been using tobacco for a period ranging from 2 months to 2 years, 27 showed severe injury to the constitution and inefficient growth; 32 showed the existence of irregularity of the heart's action, disordered stomach, and headache; 13 had intermittency of the pulse, and 1 had consumption. In 6 months after leaving off tobacco, 1-2 were free from all the former symptoms, and the remainder had recovered by the end of the year.' What a warning this is to us! It is strange what an attraction these filthy habits have for young men; they seem to have the unaccountable notion that such habits impart a manly dignity to their appearance. They labor through the deadly sickness of learning to smoke or chew, in order to render themselves offensive and disagreeable to every pure-minded girl who holds her favors at the value she ought. Why will not more of our pretty, high-bred American ladies set a standard of purity up to which their male friends must come, to be worthy of their favor."

WILEY L. SIFFORD, Manning, N. C.

"The discussions on the subject of what to read have interested me very much, and perhaps I can give a few points. I would advise any one who cannot read the best authors with pleasure, to cultivate a taste for them. Talking over a book with a friend who is fond of it will help wonderfully to make you like it. If once you come to admire an author's style, you will not stop until you have read every book he ever wrote. Do cultivate Dickens. He has written some of the best and purest books to be found in the English language. Read 'David Copperfield' first. There is more plot with less attention paid to style, than in any other of his works. Read 'The Cricket on the Hearth' and 'A Christmas Carol,' and see if then you will not be ready for 'Dombey and Son' and 'Pickwick Papers.' Read Irving and Mark Twain and Cooper and Hawthorne, and Louise Alcott. I am 19, and I am as much in love with her books as I was at 11. JESS.

The above is most excellent advice. If young people would only cultivate a taste for the standard authors, instead of filling their minds with so many trashy novels, we should have a different type of men and women in the next generation. It is of no use to try to keep up with modern fiction. Remember the saying of the 'Sage of Concord': 'When I see a new

book advertised, I go to my library and read an old one."

New Haven, Conn., August 25, 1892.

Dear Aunt Minerva:—In all the letters that come to you from various parts of the country containing the opinions of many bright writers upon many different matters, nothing has been more interesting to me than the discussion of the subject of temperance. While I have the greatest respect for the frank and outspoken opinions of a sincere mind, I cannot agree with the views expressed by a writer in the last number of *COMFORT* in reference to the use of intoxicating liquors.

The natural craving of the human system for stimulant is universal. In some form or another every man indulges this appetite. He may not drink alcoholic liquors, but the effect which the habitual use of tea, coffee or tobacco has upon him is the same as that which many so-called temperate people have who have known many so-called temperate people who were most temperate in their use of other than intoxicating beverages and whose physical health has been nearly ruined by excessive drinking of tea and coffee. Their nervous systems have been weakened, their digestion impaired and the habit of over indulgence in these powerful stimulants become so fixed that the strength of will required to throw it off has been lost. The moderate use of these drinks is beneficial and healthful. It is in their immoderate use that danger lies.

All that may be said in favor of these other beverages applies with equal force to the use of intoxicating liquors, and particularly to light wines and beer. It is a well-known fact that the most highly civilized nations of the world are those in which wine or beer is a universal beverage. The people of Germany, the most intellectual nation on earth, and of England and France, not to speak of our own country, are living witnesses to the truth of this statement. In many of the older countries the native wines are habitually drunk and are regarded as necessary an element of food as the more substantial articles. It may be news to some of your readers that in many of the populous centers of the world it is impossible to get pure water, and a Massachusetts clergyman, a firm believer in temperance, recently returned from a residence of several years in foreign lands, states that his constant good health was due to the fact that wherever he resided he drank nothing but the beer and wines peculiar to the country.

A moderate and discreet use of light wines and beer should be encouraged. With their more general adoption as a beverage in the place of stronger liquors, there would come an increased healthfulness of the people and a greater enjoyment of the ordinary pleasures of life. Drunkenness would be less common, prisons, asylums and charitable institutions would be less crowded, and contentment and happiness would become the rule instead of the exception.

In the discussion of this subject we should be moderate and temperate in our judgment of those who disagree with us; and we should acknowledge that the experience of ages and the example of the most highly civilized and cultured nations, as well as the testimony of the greatest men our own country has ever produced, are entitled to the most serious consideration and respect. Sincerely,

EDITH A. PERRY.

As *COMFORT* is for all it is the desire that in the discussion of all questions in these columns both sides should have a fair hearing, and we gladly give space to so able and respectful a letter as the above.

"I promised to tell you how I received my name of Wisconsin Wild Bill. I got it in Holland, as I said before. All the men who work on the dykes have nicknames, by which they are known near and far; and as I was so interested in the building of these dykes, I was among the men a good deal, watching them work, and became acquainted with them. They questioned me a good deal about America, and I told them of some of my adventures, so they came to the conclusion that it is rather a wild country over here. They thought that I was even wilder than the country, so they named me 'Wisconsin Wilde Willem' or in English, 'Wisconsin Wild Bill.' And I was also to tell you how they get the water off the land in Holland. Perhaps you thought that the water is always higher than the land, but at certain seasons of the year the outgoing tides leave the land the highest. Then the great gates which are in the dykes, are opened, and the water which has been gathering together by means of ditches from over the whole land into one small lake, is let out into the ocean. When the water has all run off, the gates are again closed, and the people are safe within the dykes. Some think that the people of Holland are ignorant. Who ever saw a Hollander who could not sign his name? not many. They are sober and industrious. It would surprise some of our housewives to look into a Dutch kitchen. There stands the great copper kettle, shining like gold. You can see the housewife every day standing out doors under a tree, polishing the knives, forks, etc., until they shine brilliantly. Their paths are strewn every Saturday with new white sea sand, and the barnyards look more like one of our parks than anything else. Many an American home is not as clean as the Dutchman's stable; he scrubs it every week, and his wooden shoes are washed until they are nearly as white as snow. His horses and cows are 'fat as mud.' They sow the wheat in rows and hoe it as we do corn. They use but little machinery, as the tax is too high to afford it; the government puts a high tax on such things so as to make work for the poor people. There are two classes of people, the burghers, or city folk, and the farmers, and each class think themselves too good to speak to the other. Among themselves they are generally social and good-natured."

WISCONSIN WILD BILL.

"I read Western Student's letter in July *COMFORT*, and cannot stand by with my hands in my pockets looking on without saying something, while the poor Indian is getting such a terrible raking. I feel sure that many of the cousins will take the Indian's side of the question, and make it very hot for Western Student. He seems to think the Indian was born to be chased by the bloodhound and rifle. He says they will steal, drink, gamble, and make their wives do all the work. This may be true in many cases, but look at the white man! He is equally as bad, if not worse. Who taught the Indian to swear, drink, etc.? was it not his white brother? Western Student loses his memory when he says 'the Indians had made no advancement toward civilization.' Does not history tell us that the Aztecs and Toltec Indians of Mexico were far advanced in civilization? They built cities and roads of fine workmanship, and engaged in agriculture to some extent. Of course the northern Indians were not as far advanced but had the whites any right to rob them of their home and hunting ground because they advocated hunting and fishing for a living? We believe in agriculture. Suppose some nation much stronger than we should sail to America and rob us of our homes, saying 'they will never become as highly civilized as we, why not kill them, to make room for our more advanced race?' Would we not resort to treachery too, until our race had become extinct, as our poor Indian brother has done, trying to defend his home and the graves of his kindred? Why is it that the Indians are no farther advanced? It is because the Government keeps driving them from place to place to satisfy their citizens, who are continually asking for the Indians' land. This is the way the red man of the forest has been treated, and even worse, he has been shot down in cold blood for refusing to comply with the white man's demands. I would say to the cousins who are in favor of temperance, why not join the Comfort Temperance Union and fight for the cause?"

HENRY T. HALL, Grangeville, W. Va.

Until the Golden Rule is the moving principle in the administration of Indian affairs, the unfortunate son of the forest will never fare any better than he does now. Greed and dishonesty have too long ruled this branch of our Government, but the change does not seem to be on the horizon at present.

"I enjoy the cousins' letters immensely, and especially the independent way in which some of them express their opinions. By so doing, some gain the name of crank. Well, what is there about that name to be ashamed of? What would the world amount to if it were not for the so-called crank? The crank is a thing that turns something, it makes the wheels go round, it insures progress. Wouldn't be known as a crank? Why, bless you, the crank you despise will have his name enshrined in the hearts and on enduring granite, while nobody outside of your native town will know that you ever lived. Of course some cranks are crankier than others, but they are all needed. Harvey was a crank on the subject of the circulation of the blood; Columbus was a crank; Morse was a telegraph crank; Gideon and his followers must have been deemed cranks by the Midianites; the Sanhedrim esteemed and treated Jesus Christ as a crank and a fanatic. What is thought of these people at the present time? I think the cousins all know. We cannot all be cranks, but we can be one of the little cogs that are willing to be used—even by a crank. Oh, how the world needs earnest men, known by the world as cranks, on progress bent, political and moral reformers. I should be pleased to correspond with any of the cousins who are interested in temperance questions, the White Cross movement, etc.

M. Lock Box 936, Penn Yan, N. Y."

Had writer of above signed his name a monogram, would have been awarded.

"I did not suppose my articles on the Wisconsin Pearl Fishery would call forth so much interest as they have done. I have received letters of inquiry from Maine to Calif., and Minn. to Texas. Surely *COMFORT*'s readers are widely scattered. I want to tell you what beautiful articles are manufactured from our river shells. I had hoped to tell you just the process, but as I am an invalid, cannot go out to ask about it. A fine grindstone is used, which has a sharp edge for cutting the shells into the desired shape, such as oak leaves for brooches, long bars or scrolls for face pins, a lance if a pin is wanted for a watch chain, large buckles for ladies' belts, etc. After the articles are shaped, the outer rough surface is ground off and they are polished with pumice stone until they are as smooth as can be, and shine like burnished metal. This process brings out the colors, which are varied and beautiful. Pins and brooches are made of the smaller shells without sawing them at all, simply polishing them and fastening in a pin. I manufacture my own pins in this way. Take any pretty little shell, fill it with plaster of paris wet with water, and insert a safety pin so that when the plaster hardens, it can easily be hooked or unhooked. Scallop shells from the sea make lovely pins. There is an easier method of cleaning the shells, although not as satisfactory as grinding. Wash clean, lay in cold lye (not too strong), take out every day and scrape with a knife to remove the lime. When it is all off, lay them in strong vinegar, changing it several times. When you think they are well cleaned, wash in soap suds and polish on a soft cloth. To the lady who sent me a large box of shells from Florida, I want to say, God bless you and reward you for your kindness. Some one sent me a name, addressed thus: 'To our invalid sister, Box 93, Dear friends, you can never know how that touched my heart and brought glad tears to my eyes. God bless you for thus taking me into your heart, and loving me for His sake who died that we might live. Your sister, Box 93, Monroe, Wis.'"

When so much pleasure may be given to another by such a simple act of kindness as the sending of a paper with a pleasant word, or the writing of a sympathetic letter, why do we withhold them? We ought to warmly thank our invalid sister for the pains she has taken to write all this description for us, to satisfy the curiosity of so many of *COMFORT*'s readers. Let some one write her a letter expressing our gratitude, a letter which she will not be expected to answer.

"In a late number of *COMFORT* I noticed an allusion by Aunt Minerva to that organization known as the Essay Club, and would like to say a few words in commendation thereof. Its objects, namely, the cultivation of a literary taste among its members, and the bestowal of the fee annually imposed to retain membership, upon some worthy object, certainly cannot be too highly estimated. A love of literature is something which should be fostered and encouraged to the utmost extent. In the present era, when there is such a tendency on the part of the literateur to fall into conventional ruts, and to become 'mere echoes of the whims of public sentiment or the anomaly we call fashion,' this opportunity wherein the views may be broadened, should receive the hearty support and co-operation of all those who wish to see the cause of education carried steadily forward. The second object of the Club, the assistance rendered the poor and suffering, should appeal to all that is noblest and best in the heart of every individual.

"True charity, a plant divinely nursed, Fed by the love from which it rose at first, Thrives against hope, and in the roughest scene, Storms but enlivens its unfading green; Exuberant is the shadow it supplies; Its fruit on earth, its growth above the skies." I would be pleased to correspond with a few cousins interested in literary pursuits.

FLORENCE L. LIEGGE, 41 North St., New Bedford, Mass."

"I am learning the printer's trade, and can understand very well why you request that the letters should be written on only one side of the paper, as that is the way we get all our copy; it is necessary in order that there shall be no mistakes. I have followed your advice in regard to 'looking for something wonderful' for the past 2 years, and can say that there is nothing more interesting. I have found many wonderful things, both in art and nature. One of the most curious is an arrow-head which is before me as I write. It is 3-8 of an inch long, and as wide and sharp as my pen, made of the finest of flint. Among my specimens of nature are beautiful petrified wood, shells, etc.; but Nature herself is the most wonderful of all. Will all lovers of Nature write to me."

FRED LUX, Pekin, Ill."

The advice which I gave to the young folks might well be taken up by all, in the sense in which this nephew speaks. There are so many wonderful and beautiful things in God's world, if our eyes are only open for them.

"My home is near the foot of a rugged mountain in one of Utah's peaceful vales. There are many things of interest to a lover of nature in this vicinity. About 30 miles from here is a scenic cave, or deposit. The crystals are formed in many shapes and sizes, some pieces being several feet long and a foot or more thick, and as clear as glass. In going to this cave, we follow down a stream of clear mountain water, passing through what is called Capitol Wash, which is a narrow gorge or pass, with massive walls of solid rock rising on either side to a height of 400 or 500 ft. Some of these walls are covered with hieroglyphics, and in several places are caves in which have been found relics of much higher civilized tribes than roam over this region at the present day. In many places great basins have been formed at the foot of the walls by the water pouring over them, which it always does in the rainy seasons; the sprays from these mountain torrents can be felt at a great distance. I would like to correspond with those interested in literature, history, or nature."

DELTA LAMAR, Fremont, Wayne Co., Utah."

"I propose, as a beginning of our Reunion at the World's Fair, that we organize, so as to plan systematically, the various projects which we have in mind. I would like to see a list of the various projects which we have in mind, and to see that they are carried out in a systematic and efficient manner. I would like to see a list of the various projects which we have in mind, and to see that they are carried out in a systematic and efficient manner. I would like to see a list of the various projects which we have in mind, and to see that they are carried out in a systematic and efficient manner."

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tematically. Will all who expect to be there, send their names to me, and when there is a sufficient number, committees can be appointed to secure boarding places, and make all arrangements. This will relieve Aunt of much work. All report as soon as possible. J. G. LEMBEKE, Box 123, Griswold, Iowa.

This plan has my approval, and I hope all will be prompt in helping it along.

"With all the preparations now going on for the big event in '93, everybody, the women in particular, seem to be forgetting something, and thereby the loyalty of woman to woman and the chivalry of man to woman promises to suffer exceedingly." The speaker was a charming old school gentleman who was stopping in Chicago recently. "We have been surprised," he continued, "with talk regarding Christopher Columbus and schemes to have his picture, an illustrated history of him, relics of his birthplace and of his wanderings, brought here and put on exhibition. This homage-paying to Christopher is proceeding on all hands with excess, and it is quite right and proper; but why don't we hear something about Mrs. Columbus? Probably but few people nowadays ever knew that there was ever such a woman as Mrs. Christopher Columbus? It occurs to me as particularly singular that in this day, especially women are being accorded so much of prominence and largely by reason of their own enterprise too, that upon this occasion the memory of Mrs. Christopher Columbus is permitted to be so entirely 'out of it' instead of 'in it'."



I have been reading upon the subject lately and find that Mrs. Columbus was probably more deserving of a share of the credit of Mr. Columbus' success than have been most of the unknown wives of well-known men. Columbus was married in 1470, or thereabouts, to a Miss Palestrello of Lisbon, whose father had distinguished himself as a navigator. A part of Miss Palestrello's marriage dowry was a great collection of valuable charts, journals and important memoranda. From childhood she had displayed wonderful enthusiasm on the subject, particularly to a marked degree of the speculative and adventuresome ideas and schemes in the line of geographical discovery for which Lisbon was then the headquarters. She possessed a fine education and was widely known as a brainy, brilliant woman, who was constantly urging her husband on in the path which finally brought him to the wondrous goal with which we are so familiar. While a girl Miss Palestrello made a number of hazardous voyages with her father in unfamiliar waters, and later made many geographical drawings, several of which were used with great profit by Columbus when he had won her for a wife and set out upon his more important wanderings on the great deep. There probably is no picture of this brave, talented woman extant, but certainly it would seem a graceful and most fitting thing that her memory receive some tribute upon the forthcoming occasion."

NOTE.—The above was received from an anonymous source, otherwise a monogram would have been awarded.

"When C. L. C. mentioned music in the June COMFORT, I felt that my time had come to speak. Music is the greatest passion of my life, and an art which I consider unequalled on earth. As Bryant would say, 'For his gayer hours there is the lively and animated dance, while with her soft and mournful strains she glides into his darker musings, steals away their sharpness ere he is aware.' HOOSIER LAD."

"I am a young man working with the Edison Electric Co. at Chicago, and hope to be a first class electrical engineer in a couple of years. If any of the cousins are interested in that subject, I should be glad to correspond with them. H. H. OLSEN, Edison Gen. Electric Co., Drawer EE, Chicago, Ill."

"The Keeley Sanitarium for the cure of drunkenness is situated six miles from my home. It has 70 or more patients now. I will give a little description of the treatment. The first thing is to find a boarding place, for they are not allowed to board at the hotel. Then they go to the Sanitarium, where something is injected into their arm, and then they are given all the liquor they want. Each day they are treated in this way, and after a while the liquor does not taste as good as it used to, soon it makes them sick, and in about a month they are cured. JAMES W. CLAPP, Wilcox, Mich."

While in N. Y. at the C. E. Convention, I heard the noted temperance lecturer, John G. Woolley, give one of his brilliant addresses. He is very severe in his ridicule of this Keeley cure, and characterized it, in a caustic way, as "a substitute for salvation by hypodermic injections." There is a branch of the Keeley Institute in Maine now, although I suppose that some would think that we did not need it in a prohibition (?) State!

"I think that the women have as much right to decide who shall govern them as the men; they are, as a rule, more honorable, and would not sell their vote for a glass of whiskey or a cigar. Were we not made with minds and tongues as well as the men? I believe the men who object to women voting, must consider that their own actions at the polls are unfit for their wives' or friends' inspection. I want to be a doctor, or at least a nurse, and have an excellent chance for the latter, as I can obtain 20 months practice, with two dollars a month, at a hospital. They are only too glad to get nurses, and if any of the cousins wish to enter that work, I will give them the address if they will send me a self-addressed postal. Would like to have a few correspondents. MISS MARTINEAU, Freeland, Mich."

"Simple Cynic gives as his opinion that if the women had the privilege of the ballot-box, they would soon exterminate the liquor traffic. I thought so once myself, but when I came to live in this place, my ideal was shattered. In this county, before a person can be given a license to retail intoxicating drinks, he must first procure ten signers out of the nearest nineteen bona fide residents, who must be heads of families, without distinction of sex. Several men have refused to sign, and have done their best to persuade others to do the same; but in the 4 years that I have lived here, I have to find the first woman who was qualified to vote on the subject, who did not always vote for the sale of liquor by signing her name on every license presented to her for signature. I am sorry it is so, but nevertheless, Simple Cynic, it is a fact. A TOTAL ABSTAINER."

This is enough to make any woman blush for her sex. But I was never hopeful of any great reform to be worked by woman's being given the right to vote, for there are as many bad women as there are men, and the "balance of power" would remain about the same in the end.

Boston, Mass.
Dear Aunt Minerva:—Shall the World's Fair be opened on Sundays? That is the question that is agitating many minds just now, and while the appropriation of Congress for the Fair is conditioned on the closing of the Fair on Sunday, it is still thought that some arrangement may be made that will not deprive the vast throng of people of the privilege of spending a portion of Sunday in viewing the marvellous exhibits that will be placed before them in Chicago next year.

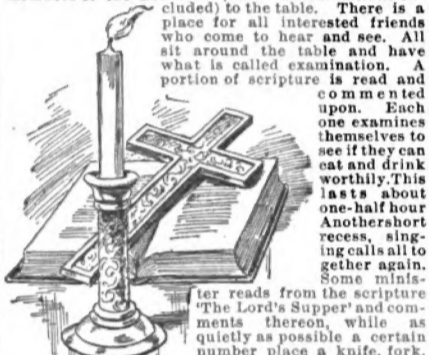
The old-time observance of Sunday still has a strong hold upon many people of the older sections of the country who retain the less liberal sentiments of other generations. But with advancing years and the rapid increase of population gathered from all parts of the world, the customs of other countries have been introduced and there has arisen a demand for opportunities of recreation on Sunday for the thousands of people who are confined closely to their labors during the week. This demand, which exists chiefly in the great centers of population, does not conflict with the rightful exaction of the church.

The visitor to Boston Common on a Sunday in summer would hardly realize that in the early Colonial

days the whipping-post was the point of attraction instead of the band stand of the present day, and that a crowd of sympathizing spectators witnessed mournfully the marks of the falling lash instead of listening to sweet strains of music or strolling along the beautifully shaded paths and reclining on the receptive turf. To-day a happy throng finds Sunday recreation on the old Common and they meet and disperse as quietly as they would enter and depart from church. It is an inspiring sight and makes one grateful for the privileges of the present day for enjoyment and rest.

Next year at Chicago there will be an immense concourse of people from all parts of the world. To close the doors of the Fair upon them on Sunday, thus depriving them of the instruction and benefit which the wonderful exhibition will afford, would be a great wrong. Open the Fair to the people on Sunday and let them view the magnificent parks and lakes among which the Fair is located. Let them see the beautiful architectural designs of the various buildings, mingle with the crowds of people from all corners of the globe, and witness the products of the inventive genius and the specimens of the agricultural and manufacturing industries of the whole world. They will enjoy the pleasures of this experience, but still more will they be impressed with the wonderful development of the human mind as shown in its marvellous products, and with the greatness and goodness of the Divine Power that has bestowed upon humanity such gifts and blessings. In the presence of these profound thoughts that must come to every intelligent mind there will be no danger lurking in the surrounding pleasures. In the language of one of the most noted ministers of the century, there can be no day too sacred for beholding material evidence of the world's progress. Harmless and innocent will be the amusement abounding on every side, and the people will return to their work with renewed vigor and with a spirit of gratitude for the Sunday sunshine that will make cheerful the darker days of the laborious week. ALICE H. CORNING.

"I read your request about the 'Brethren' or as their right name 'German Baptist Brethren,' and their 'love feasts,' as I belong to that sect I will endeavor to describe one. Before the feast an annual visit is sent out, two deacons go together over a certain portion of the church district. Every member is thus visited to see if he or she is in the same faith as they declared at their baptism and if they are in union. Whatever difficulty is found is brought before the church at what is called a 'church meeting.' At this meeting all difficulties are settled by love and Bible teaching and a strong mixture of 'bear and forbear.' During the visit each member, if able, subscribes either horse feed, candles or money. After this meeting the church is in love and union. Invitations are sent to sister churches to the 'love feast.' The church houses are mostly large with a cellar underneath; this contains a very large fireplace and talks about 2 ft. wide, with benches on either side. The benches have backs 2 ft. wide put on with hinges which can very quickly be formed into a table. At 1 o'clock P.M. the people gather on the meeting ground. Two o'clock service begins, preaching by distant ministers (sometimes 25 to 40 ministers). At 4 o'clock the meeting breaks up. During the 2 hours recess the tables are rightly placed, and long white cloths nicely spread on, while below a certain number of persons are seeing to supper (the boiling of an ox.) Promptly at 6 o'clock singing calls all straying members of the 'Brethren' (other denominations excluded) to the table. There is a place for all interested friends who come to hear and see. All sit around the table and have what is called examination. A portion of scripture is read and commented upon. Each one examines themselves to see if they can eat and drink worthily. This lasts about one-half hour. Another short recess, singing calls all to gether again. Some ministers read from the scripture 'The Lord's Supper' and comments thereon, while as quietly as possible a certain number place a knife, fork, spoon and tin cup to each person, each in order, then bread, soup, beef and water in tin coffee pots. Tallow candles are used, the tables are now all covered with long white cloths. Small tubs of water are brought and all wash one another's feet. During this time a minister preaches. Now all members eat supper. They have what is called the 'holy kiss,' this they do while singing. Next the bread communion, bread is passed to each member, all rise and one gives thanks, in great silence is this bread eaten. While singing, the wine is passed, all rise again and give thanks; another hymn sung and are dismissed. The next morning everybody gathers there to eat breakfast in the cellar. The meal consists of bread, butter, apple butter, pickles, soup, beef, tea and coffee. Preaching begins at 8 o'clock consisting of farwell address. At half past ten all disperse for their different homes, feeling greatly encouraged. The 'Brethren' dress plainly. It is a grand picture to see row after row of sisters all wearing a white cap. I have church tracts for those who may wish to know more about the 'Brethren' by writing to SARA, Box 15, Bradford, Ohio."



MONOGRAM PRIZES APPRECIATED.
To show that the cousins are delighted with the efforts of the Editor to improve our column and reward the correspondents I publish one of several letters already received by the publishers: Publishers of COMFORT.
Dear Sirs:—Please accept my most sincere thanks for the beautiful, artistic monogram prize you mailed me August 23d. It is certainly a comfort to possess such a useful and unique gift; shall use it on every occasion available. COMFORT's phenomenal growth in circulation is due to the fact its publishers are ever on the alert for some new plan or device which will prove interesting and beneficial to its subscribers. May COMFORT's numbers increase to Two Million in 1893 is the wish of H. A. TUTELL, Allegheny, Pa.
In closing the column, I would remind all to be brief, and to avoid discussions as much as possible. With best wishes, AUNT MINERVA.

"Don't Tobacco Spit Your Life Away"
Is the startling, truthful title of a little book just received, telling all about Notobac, the wonderful, harmless, economical, guaranteed cure for the tobacco habit in every form. Tobacco users who want to quit and can't, by mentioning COMFORT can get the book mailed free. Address THE STERLING REMEDY CO., Box 712, Indiana Mineral Springs, Ind. They also offer exclusive territory to good agents.

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The Household Companion will give \$200 Cash to the 1st person sending a correct solution to the above Rebus. To the 2d, \$100; to the 3d, \$50; to the 4th, a first-class Safety Bicycle, or if a lady an elegant Diamond Ring. To each of the next 16, a SOLID GOLD WATCH. To the next 15, a Beautiful Silk Dress Pattern. To the next 25, a Nickel or Gold-Plated Watch; to each of the next 50 a valuable Business or House Lot. The above Rebus makes two words. Answers must reach us on or before Dec. 10, 1892. With your answer send 25c. postal note or 80c. in stamps for a subscription to our Illustrated 16pp. Paper, worth a dollar a year. Our December issue will announce the result of the contest, with names and addresses of the winners. We have given away over \$80,000 in prizes and premiums to our subscribers in the past year and now have over 500,000 Circulation. Write your answer and name and address plainly, and enclose subscription money to

HOUSEHOLD COMPANION. 27 Beekman St., New York.



THE BUSY BEES OF COMFORT

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There are more than pleased with the great amount of interest taken in our prize offer for Christmas suggestions, which has been most satisfactorily shown by so large a number of letters on the subject that it is necessary to begin at once to publish them. However, it is just as well, we are sure the Busy Bees will say, to anticipate the announced beginning, as it



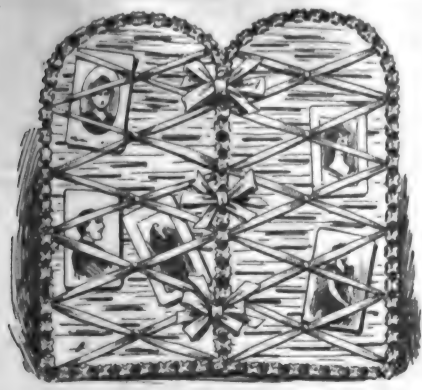
gives a whole month additional in which to make the Christmas gifts.

Just here, I think it is well to remind the Busy Bees that strict observance of all the conditions is absolutely necessary. Of these not the least important is that only one side of the paper is to be written upon. The most important, however, is the one that seems to have been most generally overlooked. That is the condition of Originality. I am sorry to say that many of the hive from whom we were glad to hear, sent suggestions that were duplicated scores of times. Still, there is so large a number of excellent hints remaining that it will not be easy to award the prizes. The limited space renders it necessary to select only the most novel, either in application or idea, for publication. Of these, some will be necessarily held over until our next issue, when the prize winners will be announced.

The contributors may notice that in several cases, one or two selections have been made from their suggestions where it has not seemed desirable to include all. From a Bee in the Nutmeg State come some clever ideas.

She writes: "It is rather jolly to have remembrances of pleasant summer times revived in the midst of winter and this summer I gathered up a store of birch bark with which I have made several souvenirs so much admired by my friends that I thought they might be useful to the Bees. Grandma was delighted with an eyeglass case which was simple but pretty. I cut two heart-

SPECTACLE CASE FOR GRANDMA OR GRANDPAPA.



PHOTOGRAPH HOLDER FOR A MALE COUSIN.

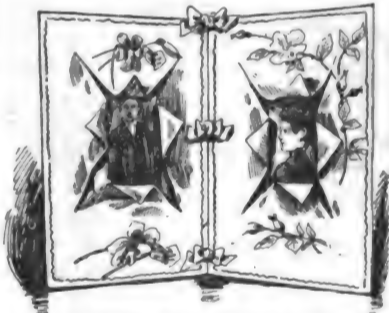
shaped pieces of bark, worked a pair of eyeglasses with the words "Let me see!" below, on one piece, lined and bound both with ribbon of

grandma's favorite color, blue, and then sewed the edges neatly together around the sides. A pretty bow of the ribbon is fastened at the lower part of the completed case. For grandpapa, who wears spectacles, I made a spectacle case in a similar way. The illustration gives a very good idea of it. Those Bees who paint can use colors instead of silks for decoration, if they wish.



A SURPRISE PINCUSHION.

For a cousin whose room is lined with pictures of his fair friends, I have made a photograph case. Selecting the largest strips I had I fastened them by tiny tacks to two raisin box covers, covering the backs of the boards with yellow China silk (sateen would do) drawn over the edges to meet the bark. I then crossed yellow ribbon about half an inch wide in zig-zag fashion over the panels thus made, and secured the crossings by small brass-headed tacks. A scant ruffling of the ribbon put on with the brass-headed tacks, covered all the ends and the rough edges, and ribbons drawn through holes bored in both panels and tied in bows in front completed a picture nest which Fred says is "just the thing to put summer girls in." For my brother I made a book cover, the size of his favorite edition of Ruskin, so that it can be transferred from one volume to another. It is lined with crimson satin and



AN ENVELOPE-MINIATURE CASE.

on each leaf of the cover is laid a strip of the satin about two inches broad. A binding of narrow ribbon makes all firm and by bending the covers back carefully the book is easily slipped into its cover. A painted fern frond ornaments the front page. Of course all these articles can be made of other material than birch bark, when that cannot be procured, as cardboard covered with plush, etc.



FOR MATCHES AND SCARF PINS.

A cute little surprise pincushion that I made for my sister amused her greatly. I covered a little round cylinder of bark with a top, made a pincushion on the lid and put a frill of lace around it. I then fastened a comical little figure on one end of a spring, covered the rest of the spring with silk and attached it firmly to the bottom of the basket. A button and loop confine the top. When unfastened out pops the quaint surprise party.

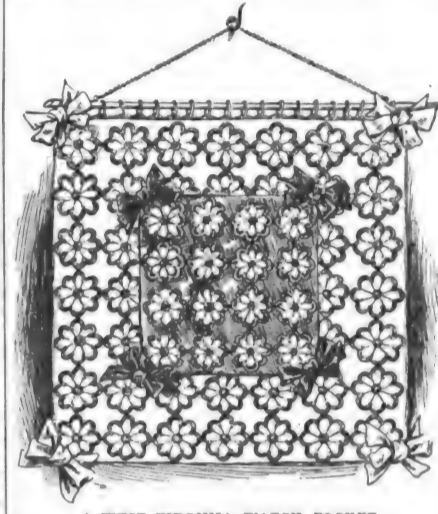
By the way, here is something else that is the simplest thing possible yet very pretty. It is an "envelope miniature case." Take two square envelopes of heavy quality and of some delicate tint, such as heliotrope. Cut two diagonal incisions, crossing in the middle, and bend the resulting four sides or flaps back, as shown in the illustration. Everyone should have a bottle of liquid gilding in the house, so you had better get some and with a small brush apply it irregularly to the edges of the envelopes and of the flaps. With mucilage fasten one of the little photographs now so fashionable, in each of the openings, tie the envelopes together with dainty bows of ribbon and you have a charming little ornament at almost no

cost or trouble. If you paint, add tiny sprays of violets or forget-me-nots.

I believe I am not to exceed six suggestions, but as the spectacle and eyeglass cases are practically one, I think I may venture to describe a convenient little article suitable for a man. Take a small piece of birch bark—say about 6 by 3 inches—and bind or paint the edges suitably. Make two little cylinders of bark and fit bottoms to them. Fill the top of one cylinder with a little cushion for scarf pins. Leave the other open, for matches. Decorate the cylinders with monogram, motto or flowers, either embroidered or painted. Sew or glue the cylinders upright on the base-board, either close together or a little distance apart. Also glue a little strip of sandpaper upon the base, to strike matches upon. If birch bark is not available, cover a thin board with plush or other suitable goods, and make the cylinders of pasteboard covered with the same, or contrasting material.

I suppose the other Bees are all swarming about my ears now because I have been buzzing so long, so good-bye,
MAE NEVENS,
New Haven, Conn.

If all the Bees buzzed to such good effect as Mae we should be glad to hear from them at any length. A very nice letter comes to the hive from Sallie B. McCoach of Sistersville, W. Va., a sister Bee who has many artistic ideas. The watch pocket here illustrated is pretty and the



A WEST VIRGINIA WATCH POCKET.

making is described thus: Take two pieces of cardboard 7 inches square, cover one side of one piece with pink silk and one side of the other piece with blue satin, put several layers of wadding between satin and cardboard, crochet a square the same size as the cardboard, in any pretty open-work pattern out of pink crochet silk, fasten over the satin, cut two pieces six inches long and 5 inches wide, one of silk and one of satin, lay them together, fold in the edges and whip, or button stitch, all around. Crochet a strip same size as the satin strip, finish all around with a scallop edge, lay over the satin, run a draw thread 1-2 inch from each edge and draw in until it is 3 inches wide, fasten in center of satin covered square, and fasten the two squares with the silk covered one at the back, finish the edge with tinsel cord or with a row of scallops, put a tiny bow of very narrow blue ribbon in each corner of the little pocket, and bows of wider ribbon in each corner of the 7 inch square. Fasten a small brass banner rod at the top to hang up by. Any combination of colors may be used, do not make your crocheted square thick, as much of the beauty depends on the satin showing through. A wheel pattern is pretty and does not need the scallop on the edge. The other designs are pretty and useful but not sufficiently novel to be advisable to print.

From a Bee in Oldtown, Maine, comes a good suggestion for a scrap-basket. Take three old



AN OLDTOWN SCRAP BASKET.

broom handles or rustic sticks and join them firmly, making them flare as widely as the desired size of your basket. Take small manilla rope, such as is used for clothes-lines. Tack one end at the joining and wind the rope around the outside of the poles, as close as possible until the top is reached. Fasten the end firmly with a long tack and tack the rope in as many places as are needed to secure it, at the poles. Varnish the rope and when nearly dry give two or three coats of gold or bronze. The legs may be bronzed or gilded. Tie a ribbon around the joining and attach a pretty bow to each corner. This is either for work or scraps and is very ornamental, as the illustration shows.

From Evelyn G., Pleasanton, Iowa, comes a pleasant letter, and from her suggestions we call one that is certainly novel. It relates to a Triplet Vase made of cow horns and is as follows: Get three horns from a butcher or slaughter-house. Clean and boil them; polish with sand paper and sweet oil. If you can paint, a spray of flowers on each horn is pretty. Punch a hole in each, about 3-4 of an inch from the top and fasten together with an invisible fastening of wire over which arrange a bow of ribbon. This forms a very pretty set of vases for flowers in water or earth, or dried grasses. The edges can be "saw-toothed" if preferred, with little trouble.

Another "Oldtown" Bee sends a group of suggestions from which we select the jewel casket for description and illustration. Get 3-4 of a pound of 1-4 inch manilla rope, being careful to have it white and clear as possible. Take scissors and trim off carefully all the fibres which

protrude from the strands, leaving it perfectly smooth. Then measure off 12 pieces each 28 inches long. Take four lengths, lay flatly to-



THE TRIPLET VASE FROM IOWA.

gether and catch with a strong thread. Proceed the same with remaining lengths; then braid, using the four lengths as one strand. Lap the ends and sew firmly and as flatly together as possible. This makes the brim of the basket. The bottom is made by sewing one piece of the rope around in one flat coil until it fits into the top part, sew with as blind stitches as possible. Now measure off three lengths of 18 inches each and braid, leaving three inches unbraided on each end to ravel for tassel. This makes the bail, which is sewed on to cover the joining of the brim. To cover the fastening of this, put on each side a nobby bow of ribbon 1 inch wide. Line with China silk, or anything preferred. It takes only a small piece and may be shirred or puffed in, according to taste.



A NOVEL JEWEL CASKET.

Next month we will print the remaining contributions that seem most desirable and the fortunate winners of prizes will be named.
BUSY BEE, (Care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.)

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HAS OFTEN BEEN COMMENTED ON.—READ ABOUT THE NEW STYLE DOLLS.



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To introduce these goods at once, and add another million to "COMFORT'S" eleven hundred thousand circulation, we will send one doll absolutely free (all charges paid by us) to every three-months' trial subscriber enclosing 15 cents; two dolls and two dolls 25 cts., 5 for 50 cts. Many make money selling these dolls. Send one dollar for twelve, and try it.

Address MORSE & Co., Box 225, Augusta, Maine.

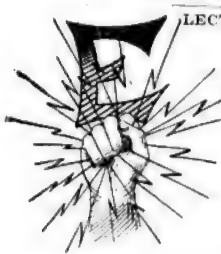
PEOPLE BUY THEM BY THE HUNDREDS.
In ordering the second lot here is what one Lady says:

15 Concert St., Keokuk, Iowa.
MORSE & Co.,
Sirs:—Dolls received. Enclosed find money order, for which send me fifty (50) more of your indestructible dolls, express paid. Please send soon as you can, as I already have orders for a number of them. Mothers and children seem equally delighted with the dolls.
Respy,
Mrs. W. H. Fouts.

Now that Holidays are coming, every child will want a present, so order to day and be the first in the field.

Simple Science for Busy Breadwinners.

ELECTRICITY I



largest colleges have established electrical engineering departments and these branches are crowded with students.

Just what electricity is nobody knows. It varies from the tiny harmless spark one brushes from the soft fur of the family cat to the frightful force of the thunderbolt. It is a good servant but a dangerous master and too much care cannot be exercised in the use of powerful currents. The many accidents reported are the result of an intense current passing through the human body, either to another wire, or off into the ground. The shock to the vital powers is so great as in many cases to kill the individual, and executing criminals by this method has in the State of New York taken the place of hanging, as being instantaneous and therefore more humane.

New discoveries in electricity are constantly being made and the most advanced students and inventors dare not prophesy future developments, or what can or cannot be accomplished by means of this wonderful force. At the present time its use is divided into four general branches, the telegraph, the telephone, electric lighting and the production of power for driving machinery. To this list may perhaps be added another branch, very small compared to the others, viz: the production of heat. This mysterious force makes communication instant between places far distant, drives sewing machines, printing presses and many other kinds of machinery, lights and propels street cars, railway trains, lights houses, roads and steamboats, and the immediate future will doubtless witness its introduction into many other fields of usefulness.

Electricity itself is always the same, no matter how or by what means it is produced. The currents used in telegraphing and telephoning are not very strong and are generated by the action of various metals and chemicals placed in glass jars called "batteries." For other purposes requiring powerful and sustained currents, as in driving machinery or furnishing electric light, electricity is manufactured in power-houses by means of a "dynamo" driven by a stationary steam engine. The current is conveyed from these houses by wire to wherever it is wanted, and meters have been made by which anyone using electricity can be charged with the amount consumed. The exact construction and operation of batteries and dynamos is left for a future article.

No less renowned a genius than Thomas A. Edison a few years ago said that he thought it would be impossible to build a dynamo that would furnish a strong enough electrical current to light more than one thousand lamps, and at that time it seemed very improbable. But the coming World's Fair will be equipped with several dynamos, each of the capacity of ten thousand incandescent lamps. Nearly ninety thousand lights of this description will be used about the buildings and grounds. A recent report of building statistics also says: "Nine-tenths of the new houses being erected in the city of Indianapolis are being wired throughout for electric lighting."

All over the country these lights have become so common that their appearance has almost ceased to be a novelty to anybody, yet it is safe to say there isn't one person in a hundred who has any idea of how it is done. As the production of light is one of the most important uses to which electricity has been put, the following short explanation will interest busy workers. It is neither technical or confusing, but will present in a popular way, the main points of incandescent lighting, the system usually employed in illuminating homes.



Fig. 1.

First, as to the incandescent lamp itself. Its general appearance is given in figure 1. Light is produced by a charred, horse-shoe shaped loop of bamboo or other vegetable fibre, hardly thicker than a hair. Electricity traverses some substances more freely than others. This charred loop presents such resistance to the passage of the current that it is kept at a white heat. These loops would burn out instantly if exposed to common air, but as combustion is not possible in a vacuum, they are placed in sealed pear-shaped glass bulbs from which the air has been exhausted. The intense heat causes these loops to slowly waste away and when they finally break the lamp is useless and is thrown away. The manufacturers guarantee them for five hundred hours burning, but they generally last much longer. The usual sizes are ten and sixteen candle-power. Two little wires project from the base of each glass bulb, connected inside with the ends of the charred horse-shoe of "carbon filament." In order to produce light it is only necessary to attach these wires to the two wires from your electrical generator (battery or dynamo) and if the electrical current is of sufficient strength, the tiny white-hot loop glows with intense brilliancy.

But you want several lights, perhaps in different rooms, or along the street. Supposing you connect them as shown in Figure 2. Now come some of the freaks of electricity. They will burn nicely until a lamp breaks or you should wish to turn one out, and

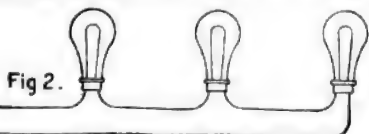


Fig. 2.

then every lamp in the circuit would go out. Why is this? In the first place, electricity would not start on

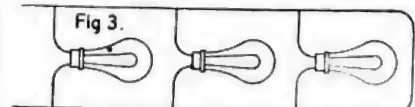


Fig. 3.

a circuit at all unless the circuit is complete and unbroken. As the lamps are arranged, the current has to go through every lamp to reach those beyond and complete the circuit. To stop its passage through a lamp would be just like cutting the wire itself. To cut the wire, however, would be a dangerous experiment, for the reason that the current would instantly form a new circuit into the great reservoir of electricity—the earth—through the body of the person who had interrupted it. Neither can we arrange the lamps as shown in Figure 3. The current would avoid the great resistance through the lamps, and would travel around on the outside wire without passing through a single one, for electricity, like human nature, always goes the easiest way round and does as little work as possible.

The solution of the problem is Figure 4. The electricity must pass from one wire to the other, and to do so divides itself equally between the lamps. Should one of these break, or be turned off, the current divides itself among the remainder, which thus, instead of going out, become if anything, brighter. The current of electricity must be proportionate in strength to the number of lamps. If too weak, the lamps give a yellowish light instead of white. All

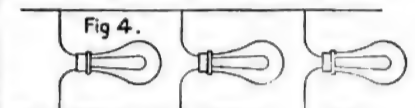


Fig. 4.

connections are made with copper wire, used because of its excellent conducting powers. This wire is covered with cotton, neatly braided on by machinery, and this wrapping coated with some waterproof and non-conducting compound, thus protecting the wire from contact with anything through which the electricity might escape. No matter whether there are two or two thousand lights in a circuit, they must be arranged on the principle shown in Figure 4.

Our next article will deal with electricity as a motive power.

Young Folks' Department.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS:
Auntie seems to think that I had better keep this column for the present, as she has so much to do; but I hope that you will all write just the same, and perhaps you will be glad to have an uncle as well as an aunt! Let me see, school has been in session nearly a month now, and you are all hard at work in your studies, with the harness fairly buckled on again after the playtime of vacation. In some parts of the country, you are spending the half-holidays in going napping, although I suppose Jack Frost has not got along quite yet; you always like to have his help in cracking open the prickly huzzes. October is such a beautiful month, with all the bright leaves on the trees, and the farmers gathering in the autumn fruits; but it makes us think of the cold winter which is coming, and that is not pleasant, at least to us old folks.

But I must not talk too long, for Auntie has given me such a lot of letters, and those will be more interesting than anything that I can say to the young folks.

"The cousins usually tell about their pets, so I will tell about ours. The most remarkable ones are fish in a large pond near the house. In warm weather they will come near to the bank and eat bread from our hands, and when we children put our bare feet in the water, they will come and nibble our toes. My little sister has a kitten that will play hide-and-seek. I live in the country, and have a happy home. I appreciate my good health more than ever when I read the letters of the Shut-Ins, and extend to them my sympathy. I should have been in that group of children when Auntie touched their noses with lemon juice."

MARY M. BROCK, Eagleville, Mo.

I do not believe that you go fishing very much in that pond, or the fish would not be so tame.

"I want to tell you about my home. It is situated just 16 miles north of the Ohio river, in the forks of the Big and Little Indian creeks. It is the old capital of Indiana, and is a very beautiful town. The old State House is still standing, and is in good order. The Governor's mansion is in ruins, but the old elm tree, under whose branches Congress used to meet in summer, is still very beautiful. I am a boy 16 years old, and have been going to the High School for several years. The woods are full of a dozen different kinds of flowers, and we have fine times gathering them. I live on an elevated piece of ground, about 200 yards out of the town limits, which are extending steadily toward our land. The highest hill in the country around is about 900 ft. high. We have a sulphur spring in this place, and one of the finest fresh water springs in the State. Corydon is a kind of summer resort for people from Louisville and other cities near. I would like to correspond with some of the cousins."

IRA BENTON, Box 245, Corydon, Ind.

Here is another little fellow from Texas. I believe that they raise some smart boys among the cotton down there.

"I am a little boy 6 years old, and live on a farm in the prairie country of Texas. I picked 1,800 lbs. of cotton last year. Mama was sick last summer, and papa and I kept house. I wipe dishes for mama, and help her sweep too. I have never been to school, but am learning at home, and can read A, B, C. I have 2 brothers, one 5 years old named John, and Baby Joe. I am taking care of little Joe while mama writes this for me. Papa bought John and me a saddle, and we have a nice time riding."

HURL MCLELLAN, Coryville, Texas.

"I am quite interested in the collecting of coins, stamps, etc. I agree with W. F. Case about forming a collectors club for the purpose of exchange, and of getting acquainted with each other. Collecting is not only pleasurable, but also profitable and instructive. Many people make a good deal of money by collecting old coins and selling them to dealers. I as strongly oppose any collecting that is foolish or wicked, as I approve of that which is beneficial. Would like to correspond with those interested in collecting."

EDWARD SHEPARD, Wellman, Iowa.

"I am a little Danish girl, 8 years old. I go to school every day except on washing day, when I have to help my mama. We have a fine teacher. I want to surprise my mama and papa with this letter."

CHRISTIANE NIPPESON, Stony Ford, Cal.

"As this is my birthday, I will write to you. I am a little girl 13 years old. My parents being poor, my advantages for an education are small. I have the opportunity of attending the public school three months only in the year. The public school system of our State is almost a failure. I live in the fertile Valley of Tennessee, so-called. We are surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery. The land along the river is very productive, the staples being corn and cotton. Our county is a prohibition county; no whiskey is allowed to be sold here."

MARY S. SPOGDRILL, Packlers, Ala.

I should think that the school system of that State was not only almost, but entirely a failure. What would you think, young folks of New England, to have school only three months in the year? I think that our young friend from Ala. has done wonderfully well, with the advantages she has had, to write as good a letter as this.

"We live in the country; Petersburg is our nearest city, and that is 8 miles. There was a candy feast at our church at Xmas, and my little nephew recited a piece we found in COMFORT called 'An Appropriate Present,' about Polly and Santa Claus. He spoke it beautifully, (he is only 6 years old), and he held up an old stocking and the darning cotton ran right through on the floor. There was the greatest laugh that you ever heard. For pets we have about 250 chickens, and 50 Pekin ducks; they are very busy, as they have to be kept so clean, or sickness will come among them. We think a great deal of COMFORT, it brings comfort every time it comes to our home."

Rosa B. Rodgers, Derby, Va.

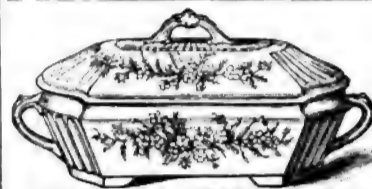
Now I shall expect a great many letters from the young folks. You may direct to Auntie or to me, in care of COMFORT. With best wishes, your

UNCLE JOSEPHUS.

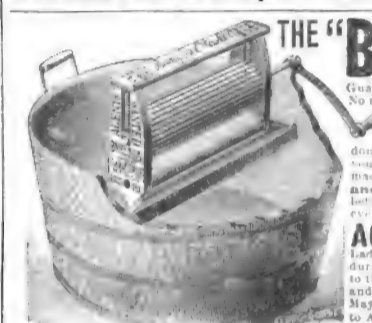
HOW I MADE MY START.

The question with every young person is, how to start in business. During my last term of school, I learned of a friend making money plating jewelry and tableware; bought a \$5 plater of H. F. Delno & Co. of Columbus, Ohio. In one week I did \$13 worth. Last week I was sick and only made \$11. The price received for plating is nearly all profit and the work nice. Every person has gold, silver or nickel plating to do. I hope to start a little store soon. Why can't any person make a start in this way?

JAMES ANDERSON.



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DINNER SET, NO. 45, 112 PIECES.
Premium with an order of \$30.00.
Packed and delivered at depot for \$9.00 cash.



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YOU DO IT FOR THE MONEY.
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DR. EVANS' PHOSPHOR OZONIZED AIR cures Deafness, Catarrh, Buzzing Noises, Foul Breath, Asthma and consumption. New method sent with apparatus to all parts. Explanatory pamphlet mailed free. DAVID EVANS, M. D., 226 Tremont Street, Boston.

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CONSUMPTION. Valuable treatise and two bottles of medicine sent free to any sufferer. Give Express and Post Office address. T. A. SLOCUM, M. C., 188 Pearl St., New York.

Agents Wanted on Salary or commission, to handle the new Patent Chemical Ink Erasing Pencil. The quickest and greatest selling novelty ever produced. Erases ink thoroughly in two seconds. No abrasion of paper. Works like magic. 200 to 500 per cent. profit. One agent's sales amounted to \$200 in six days. Another \$32 in two hours. Previous experience not necessary. For terms and full particulars, address, The Monroe Eraser Mfg Co., La Crosse, Wis. X 87.

OR we give this set as a PREMIUM to those who get up a CLUB of \$20.00 for our TEAS, SPICES and EXTRACTS. We are IMPORTERS of TEA, COFFEE and CROCKERY, and sell direct to CONSUMERS. We want YOU to send for our 138-page PRICE and PREMIUM LIST. It tells the whole story. Costs you nothing. Will interest and pay you.

We have hundreds of other sets, PLAIN and DECORATED.

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THE SKIRT DANCE.



AMONG the latest crazes, not only in theatrical but in social circles, is the skirt dance. It was introduced into this country by the Gaiety Theatre girls from London and since has been the rage everywhere. There is really no novelty in this dance, it being a mere elaboration of the old ballet dancing which for generations has been so popular. The dancer is differently costumed but the dance itself is the same in principle. The simple and artistic skirts reaching to the floor with their sweeping fullness, give the fair dancer perfect freedom of movement, while the grace and naturalness of gesture and step make a picture of great beauty and refinement.

We do not advise readers of **COMFORT** to adopt this vocation but they should know what it is, and learn also that all that glitters is not gold and that the smile of the skirt-dancer is often assumed. Popular favor is only won by hard work and a life of constant sacrifice, cruel rebuffs and bitter tears choked back. In return, as your beauty wanes, some actress—youthful and fresher—takes your place, and from that on, life is a struggle. You are hoarse, but you must speak in a sweet voice, you are ill, but your feet must be nimble. It is hard to convince the enthusiastic girl of this, but it happens every day.

Private theatricals and home entertainments are entirely a different matter, and young people with talent oft-times prove very acceptable as amateur performers.

A few hints for the Skirt Dance may not be amiss at this point. In the dance the feet should be kept in the air as much as possible, indeed, one might say that the "high kick" with its accompanying swirl of petticoats is its principle feature. Three underskirts are worn, each with a full flounce on the upper and under sides. The first one is securely fastened below the knee. This prevents the drapery from falling out of place. Chiffon silk and tulle are the favorite fabrics, but soft white lace and India mull are often employed, being less expensive. The skirt of the dress is of some light material—accordion plaited—and measures from ten to fourteen yards around the bottom. The peasant bodice is usually of velvet and fastens with lacing cords. Some very pretty skirts for church fairs and school entertainments have been made of cheesecloth in the delicate tints. These plait nicely and are comparatively inexpensive.

The Serpentine Dance lately introduced in this country, demands a voluminous skirt, eighty yards of material being required for its construction. It is thirty yards around, ungored, and touches the floor. Confined to the short baby-waist by coarse gathers, the material falls in soft folds to the feet. Tights of some faint color are worn, the fullness of the skirt making under-drapery unnecessary. The dance is founded on that of the Nautch girls who appeared at the Paris Exposition, and consists of the dancer whirling the skirt about as she executes her steps. At one time it twists like a gauzy serpent, again it rises like the wings of a butterfly, and in the last figure completely envelopes the dancer. The more airy the material the more effective the dance, and a bright girl with a skirt, and full-length mirror, can in a short time unravel this—the latest thing in dancing. Its peculiarity, and charm, lies in the deft handling of the skirt and the graceful undulations of the body.

Our illustrations are taken from life and represent Miss Lole Fuller and Miss Allen, two of the most brilliant skirt-dancers in the country.

FACTS FOR THE FAIR SEX.



THE custom of bride and bridegroom running a race down the aisle of the church, because of the belief that the one who first steps on the carpet in front of the altar will rule the house!

As the higher education of women goes on, it is interesting to note how the status of the "old maid" has changed. At the present day no one thinks of assuming that the unmarried woman of middle age has been scorned by the stronger sex, but rather takes for granted that her fastidious tastes failed to find any man sufficiently attractive to marry!

Some of the brightest and best women of our day have chosen a life of single blessedness, rather than marry simply because they had "the chance."

One of the most startling sights of the great Columbian Exhibition in Chicago will be the regiment of Amazons or women soldiers, which will accompany the exhibit from Dahomey, a little State in Western Africa on the coast of Guinea. An entire village will be transported

to Chicago and will live just as in their native land. The women soldiers of Dahomey have been famous in history from time immemorial and are the ruling power in the State. Only the largest and strongest women are allowed to serve in this capacity and they are treated with almost superstitious respect by the people.

Speaking of marrying, it seems that feasting has always been considered a necessary adjunct of joyful occasions. The wedding feast is as old as love itself. Even our nineteenth century civilization, with its disdain of effete symbolisms and superstitions, still clings to the wedding breakfast or supper. The feast was originally a religious feature, being a sacrifice to the household gods, but gradually lost that significance and became merely a part of the merrymaking. The "bride's cake," which was once her special offering to the deity presiding over marriage, retains a somewhat distinctive character as only she is allowed to cut it. The English bride's cake is frequently five feet high, and decorated with shields and flags and family crests. The American is more modest. At a recent fashionable wedding however, the bride's cake was about two feet in diameter and represented a tower on whose summit rested a dove, emblematic of peace. Delicate ferns and ivy wreaths twined about the tower and the effect was exquisitely dainty.

Much is said in the



newspapers about the indolent habits of fashionable American women, but they are activity itself in comparison with the aristocrats of Russia. As no one of the upper class of that country thinks of retiring before three o'clock in the morning, it is quite natural that most of the day should be passed in slumber and it is said that there are many fashionable women of rank in St. Petersburg, who have not been seen except by gaslight for years.

A favorite amusement for these Russian aristocrats is the "Troika" party. The troika is a large sleigh with three horses harnessed abreast. Women and men wrap themselves in furs from head to foot and, with the thermometer at 30 degrees below zero, are driven rapidly through streets still with the silence of midnight, far into the suburbs until some lonely tavern is reached where supper may be found. Near St. Petersburg these taverns frequently have bands of gypsies in the vicinity, who will come and dance and sing their strange, sweet songs for the visitors who listen enchanted until the sun's distant rays warn them that the night has gone!

The new style of hairdressing is copied from the classic simplicity of the Greeks and is formed by waving the hair on each side of the parting. This can be done with the curling tongs or rolled up over night, unless the woman is fortunate enough to have it curled by nature. A few short hairs are allowed to fall over the forehead. Then coil the hair loosely in a knot low on the head and allow a few strands of hair to curl in the neck.

Another pretty way is to coil the hair from the top of the head to the neck. This is easiest done by curling the short hairs on top and then drawing the rest of the hair together and tying it loosely with a ribbon and coiling the twisted hair keeping the effect narrow. Then curl the lower strands in the neck and the small bang and the effect is charming. Not for many years have so many decorations been used in the hair—flowers, ribbons, all manner of bands for the front and back hair, gold pins, diamonds, pearls and amber ornaments. But for the girl under twenty-five, by far the pret-

tiest fad of the day is the use of black velvet ribbon, especially on the light haired maiden. The ribbon is knotted coquettishly in several different places according to the taste of the donor. A simple but effective ornament for an evening party is made by winding any color ribbon around two pieces of wire, thereby making a Greek fillet. A girl with perfect features wears a single rose among her coils, and the one with the round and piquant face adorns herself with a ribbon of gold with pert little upstanding bows. There is no reason why with a little study of the face all the girls should not find some becoming mode of hairdressing.

The Great Diamonds of the World.

THERE are a few diamonds in the world of such great value that but few persons care to own them, for a great diamond like a great fortune entails an endless amount of harassment and is a constant source of anxiety. Perhaps the largest and most valuable is the famous Koh-i-noor Diamond now belonging to the Queen of England. Of all the great diamonds of the world it has the most romantic history. It was originally found in the mines of Golconda, how long ago no one can tell. The Hindoos who are fond of big figures claim that it was first worn by Kama, King of Auga nearly three thousand years ago, but the first authentic history we have of it is during the reign of a celebrated king known as Shah Jehan, the Great Mogul. He was a very powerful king and chief among all the tribes of India. It is not an uncommon thing now-a-days to speak of a conceited man in derision as a Great Mogul, yet few people know from whence the term originated.

Shah Jehan employed a Venetian diamond cutter to polish the gem, but the man did his work very poorly, and the Mogul in a rage fined the jeweler ten thousand ducats instead of paying what he agreed to. But for this blundering butchery the Koh-i-noor would to-day be the largest, as it is the most brilliant, diamond the world has ever seen. In its native country the Koh-i-noor was regarded with interest and admiration, and all sorts of wonderful and mystical powers were ascribed to it. This naturally excited the cupidity of the neighboring chiefs, and frequent wars were a result.

Early in the present century the Khan of Cabul was the possessor of it, from whom the famous chief Lahore obtained it in an audacious manner. Having heard that the Khan of Cabul possessed a diamond which had belonged to the Great Mogul, and which was the brightest and purest gem ever seen, he invited the unfortunate owner of the gem to his court, and there having him in his power demanded the diamond. The guest however had provided himself with an imitation which he delivered up to his covetous host after a slight show of resistance. The delight of Lahore was extreme but of short duration.



The gem to whom he gave it pronounced it to be merely crystal and the mortification of the despot was great. He at once ordered the palace of the Khan to be ransacked from top to bottom, but all search was in vain. At last a slave betrayed the secret, and the diamond was found beneath a heap of ashes.

An Englishman who visited the great Sikh potentate some years afterwards was deeply impressed with the jewels worn by Lahore, chief among which was the Koh-i-noor or "Mountain of Light" as it means in English, and shortly afterwards when the British conquered Punjab this precious jewel was found among the spoil and presented by the East India Company to the Queen of England.

The Duke of Wellington who won the Battle of Waterloo was asked to give the first touch to the polishing now deemed necessary, and to-day the "Mountain of Light" is more beautiful and more dazzling than ever before in its history. Its present value is supposed to be about \$275,000.00, though of course if a nation or a person desired to own it, and it was for sale, it would be worth as much as the buyer chose to give for it, which might be in the millions.

Even at the price we have named the ordinary rate of interest allowed by savings banks would represent an annual income of more than \$1,000.00, quite a tidy sum to live on. There are several other diamonds in the world the possession of which is a princely fortune in itself. The "Star of the South" is worth about \$225,000.00. The "Regent" about \$200,000. The great Russian diamond "The Orloff" about \$250,000, the Austrian diamond about \$200,000. There was one found in the Kimberly mines in South Africa for which \$300,000 was refused, and there is one owned by a king in Borneo that is supposed to be worth double what any of the others are valued at.

If you should happen to have a few diamonds around the house and lose one or two, let it not worry you, but remember that in all probability you could replace it, and thank your lucky stars that it isn't one of the great diamonds that would set the whole world talking and make the reporters hunt your footsteps almost to the grave.

HENDRIK HUDSON.



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OCTOBER is the month of ripe pumpkins and red-hot politics. And to borrow the tuneful lay of the sweet singer from Michigan, both are "in our midst" at the present writing—and what will the harvest be?

While it is pretty difficult to foreshadow the result without guessing twice, it is safe to predict that whether the republican goose be cooked or the democratic crow be served up raw, the pumpkin will continue to everlastingly hold the fort as the prime favorite of the family pie foundry, and that it will likewise continue, as heretofore, to furnish fun for the farmer's fireside by masquerading as the midnight "Boogie" man.

The manner in which the Juvenile Hayseeds utilize this innocent football of the vegetable kingdom for paralyzing the latest importation from the County of Cork is not only a howling success but has never been fittingly portrayed by the poet's pen. Nor has it ever been recorded that shortly after the advent of the Melancholy Days in the year 1857, the Junior Kinsabys, then domiciled at the old homestead in Ohio, held a Council of War which secretly



declared that the period of usefulness of the female mechanic who presided over the Kinsabby kitchen had come to an end, and that her continued presence would prove distasteful to at least one portion of the household.

As a means of conveying the hint to "vamoose the ranch," a pumpkin was fitted up in the most hideous style of the prehistoric art, and shortly before midnight this was introduced to the timid and unsuspecting Bridget under the nom de plume of The Holy Terror from Haunted Hollow—and the picture tells the rest.

A MINISTER up in the mountains of Vermont, whose horse is subject to periodical fits of dizziness, had his confidence in human nature shaken by this advice from one of his flock: "Take the horse to town some day when he isn't dizzy and sell him to a stranger."



It isn't everybody that can get even with a mean man. There is a State of Maine, however, a little barefoot lad who did the trick in exceedingly great shape the other day.

Last June a rich fish dealer from Portland bought a summer home among the romantic hills of Skowhegan, and he had not been settled there a week before Tommy Wilson, who lives on the adjoining farm, found that the son of his new neighbor was mean enough to steal the silver door-plate off the golden gates of Heaven, if he got the chance. It seems that Tommy's little sister was the proud possessor of a pair of snow-white pigeons, which he had bought

her for a birthday present at the last fair, paying for them out of money he had earned picking berries. The little miss valued and loved them as only a country child can, and when one day the pretty pair paid

a flying visit to the neighboring barn-yard and were shot down in cold blood by the junior fishmonger, our friend Tommy organized himself into a committee of one for the purpose of making the herring huckster pay the highest price on record for dead pigeons.

Whether he lay awake nights to perfect his plan of reciprocity is not known, but it is a matter of history that within the short period of two weeks he landed the Portland pickerel pedler, as he termed him, in the soup in a manner that fills the properly balanced human heart with unutterable joy.

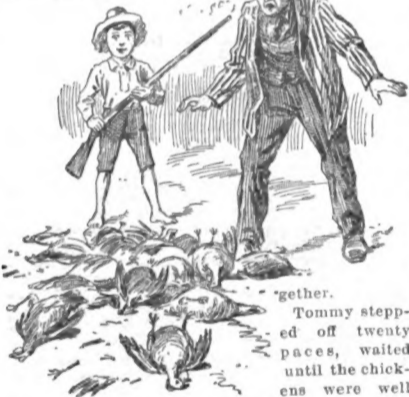
Some boys would no doubt have waylaid the Portland chap and mauled him, but that wasn't in accordance with Tommy's idea of squaring things up. He never even mentioned the matter to the villain and acted just as though he didn't mind a little thing like that. But all this time he was preparing a dose of misery for the murderer of his sister's pets, and when he had his plans all ready his neighbor heard something drop, as the saying goes.

One day last week he paid him a visit, with his cousin, on his way home from a squirrel hunt, and after talking about the weather and the probability of Grover Cleveland being elected to stay at home, he incidentally admired a flock of fine fowls which roamed about the yard, and jokingly asked how much the owner would take for a shot at them. When the boy replied that all the money in Skowhegan wouldn't induce his father to part with those prize chickens and that some of them were worth over fifty dollars apiece, Tommy suddenly excused himself, saying he would run over to see if his mother didn't want him. No sooner had he gone than the cousin changed the subject to guns, and taking up Tommy's old wild-goose musket said it would be a good job to draw out his shot and then when he came back bet him that he couldn't hit a barn door. The fish fiend took the bait like a shark, promptly adjusted the wormer to the ramrod and withdrew the shot. Pretty soon Tommy came back and remarked that as he couldn't get a shot at prize chickens he would have to go home and do his chores.

"What'll you give if I let you have a shot at them," said the Smart Aleck from Portland.

"Well, chickens ain't worth much now, but if you'll call them all together so's to give me and my musket a fair show, I'll give you fifty cents and take what I kill at twenty yards."

"It's a go," said the over-confident pigeon pepperer, and began calling the fowls to-



gether. Tommy stepped off twenty paces, waited until the chickens were well bunched and then blazed away. When the smoke had cleared, seventeen game fowls lay dead upon the grass, for Tommy had taken good care to put two charges of shot into his gun before making his appearance upon the scene of action.

The roar of the blunderbuss brought the old man on the ground and the way he danced up and down, pawed the air and made sultry remarks, was a truly awe-inspiring spectacle. Meanwhile Tommy and his companion gathered up their game fowls and with the remark, "Now, mister, I'm square with your boy for killing my sister's pet pigeons," departed for home.

It verily doth appear that, though the country boy may be slow, he gets there all the same.

ON the afternoon of last "Labor Day" there occurred within the classic precincts of Cambridge, Mass., a cholera scare which caused a painful scattering of panic-stricken inhabitants and came mighty near resulting fatally in at least one instance.

A brief recital of the case should prove a warning to those who are forever monkeying with the flowing bowl and should at the same time induce the timid citizens who so hastily fled from the scene of peril to return to the bosom of their families. The unvarnished facts of the case are these: Mr. Oliver Wendell Bromfield is one of the foremost hide and leather purveyors of Boston and he lives in an elegant mansion adjoining the Harvard College buildings. Among other high honors which have fallen to his lot is that of being father to two remarkable specimens of "Young America," aged respectively seven and ten.

Returning from the city on the afternoon of the holiday mentioned, he was surprised to find a home-made lemonade stand in full blast in front of his house, and his ears were saluted by the familiar cry,

"Lemonade, sir, ice cool lemonade; only five cents a glass." With astonishment and pleasure he recognized his oldest son, who with true Yankee thrift was relieving the passers-by of their spare cash and lading out the cooling decoction from a wooden bucket, in which the ice rattled refreshingly.

He was about to invest when he became aware of a rival establishment located on the other side of the gateway and which had evidently gone into the cut-rate business. He there discovered his youngest boy, behind another booth, filling the air with "Only two cents a glass!" No one, probably, will ever know whether it was business instincts or a desire to encourage the youngest child that made Mr. Bromfield step over to the second booth and drain a glass. Smacking his lips and putting down a couple of coppers, he was about to enter his residence when his curiosity led him to inquire how it was that the proprietor could afford to sell his lemonade so much cheaper than his rival. It was a fatal question. And the answer simply paralyzed him.

"Well, you see, I'm selling at a reduced price, 'cause the puppy fell in mine."

Mr. Bromfield clutched wildly at the region of his vest pockets, and staggered into the house. Unfortunately, the last part of this dark tragedy had been witnessed by two or three neighbors, who had just been reading the accounts of the spread of the cholera and the detention of all emigrants in quarantine. One or two stopped and gazed at the house; a crowd began to gather. "Case of cholera!" was whispered from ear to ear. The street was jammed when Mr. Bromfield himself appeared upon the scene, accompanied by a severe pain in his midst. The effect was astonishing. Never since the war have so many men run wildly away. In all probability some are still laying low.

The moral of the sad occurrence is this: Shun the flowing bowl; but if you must drink, don't drink two-cent lemonade.

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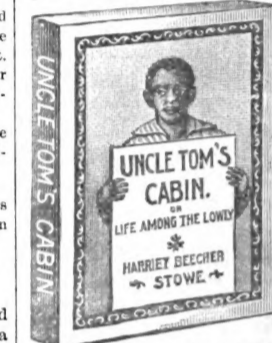
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